



**Story County Transportation Collaboration – Meeting Minutes**  
*(Works to identify the transportation challenges members of the county face daily  
and to develop the partnerships to help address the needs)*

**Wednesday, January 15, 1:00-2:30 p.m.**  
**CityChurch, 2400 Oakwood Road, Ames**

**Present:** Allison VanPelt (Des Moines MPO), Amber Schaefer (Mainstream Living), Jessica Sherzan (HIRTA), Shari Atwood (CyRide / Ames MPO), Kalen Petersen (RSVP), Jessica Bullock (RSVP), Anneke Mundel (United Way of Story County)

**Introductions:**

**Meeting Minutes:** The October 9, 2019 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved with no changes.

**“Extending the table” – review of, and additions to, stakeholders list:** Anneke reminded the attendees of the wish to include additional stakeholders who could identify transportation challenges, help address those needs, or do both. She shared a list of the current stakeholders, spanning many sectors (please see addendum to these minutes); in other words, many stakeholders are invited to the meetings but not all attend regularly. Shari asked if some of the stakeholders might prefer to join HIRTA’s more regional Transportation Advisory Group instead. (Allison explained that TAGs are required to meet at least twice per year.) Anneke stated that HIRTAs TAG will be an independent entity from the SC Transportation Collaboration, though some members may choose to participate in both. Allison reminded the attendees that HIRTAs proposed regional structure is still pending approval; we should know more in 2-3 weeks.

After review of the current invited stakeholders, additional entities and contact people were identified (in red on the addended document). Anneke will contact these individuals to determine interest and availability in attending the SC Transportation Collaboration.

**Presentation by Allison van Pelt, Associate Planner with Des Moines MPO – “What we can learn in Story County from the Environmental Justice report and OnTheMap resources?”**

Allison shared a number of different resources with the collaboration. (Please see the attached documents.)

- **The Environmental Justice report** – this is a report which draws its data from the US Census every 10 years, thus using actual numbers (rather than estimates, as in the American Community Survey data). According to this report, Story County does not have any “environmental justice areas” currently as the criteria to be included is having 6 / 7 degrees of disadvantage compared to the regional average. However, there are areas that have certain degrees of disadvantage: for example, south of Nevada and Story City have a higher than average number of carless households; around North Grand Mall, there is a higher than average rate of poverty.
- **OnTheMap (onthemap.ces.census.gov)** – this is an online resource that also draws on US Census data. It shows where employees live, where they travel to for employment, and more. This data is useful for employers trying to decide where to locate a new business, for transportation providers trying to determine routes, and more.

Allison also shared several additional resources:

- **The Ames Area MPO’s 2020 Passenger Transportation Plan** (<https://www.cityofames.org/home/showdocument?id=49667> )-Allison suggested this provides a wealth of information about transportation priorities and strategies for the City of Ames that could help focus the work of the SC Transportation Collaboration.
- **Data portal on US Census Website** (<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/> )- Allison said this has recently been updated and is much more powerful and intuitive now. She provided some examples of data queries, such as primary industries in Story County, and demonstrated the narrative profiles that can be generated. Allison stated that this is an excellent tool for grant and report-writing.

**Welcome to – and remarks from - new staff:** Barb Neal (CyRide Director) was not available to attend. **Jess Sherzan (HIRTA Outreach for Story County)** was present. She explained that she works out of the Urbandale office. Her focus to date has been meeting with human service partners and explaining HIRTA services (ex/ Unity Point and the VA). She also has done some one-on-one meetings with staff and clients to determine eligibility for services. **Jess said she would be happy to come to any agency interested in learning more about how HIRTA can help their clients.** Kalen asked if HIRTA is still running a shuttle to Nevada. Jess said that yes, but the times are no longer fixed as they were; rather they set the schedule a bit more based on client needs.

#### **Updates from partners:**

- **RSVP:** Kalen noted that RSVP has had a significant increase in demand for out-of-county transportation, particularly to specialist appointments and the VA. For example, in 2017 they provided 22 roundtrips, while in 2019 they provided close to 50 trips. Kalen noted again the challenge of not being able to request donations. Anneke asked if other entities could “pay” for these rides by providing donations. Kalen said they can, but that historically the bulk of their revenue has come from individual rider donations and these are down. Kalen noted that RSVP and its clients have struggled to know who is eligible for transportation assistance through the MCOs. Amber said that she has found this to be pretty clear-cut; however, the MCOs have drastically limited who they will transport. Amber also noted that community members are puzzled by this; she said she received 4-5 calls per week requesting help figuring out who is covered by what waivers, etc. Allison suggested it could be helpful to have someone come in and present on MCOs and transportation assistance. Anneke asked who that might be; the attendees were unsure. Anneke said she would investigate.
- **Mainstream Living:** Amber noted that Mainstream is responsible for providing the bulk of its clients’ transportation. She noted that transportation needs affect not only clients but also staff. Amber noted that with staff, the barriers are typically more complex than not knowing what resources are available; she shows her staff the CyRide app, for example.
- **Wheels for Work Collaboration:** Anneke noted that 9 total vehicles were given away in 2019, with 2 vehicles just donated and re-gifted at the end of December/beginning of January. She also shared the strong impact of this program based on recent program evaluation, including 38% of recipients having received a promotion or raise within the first 12 months of owning a vehicle and 96% rating their ability to get around as “better.” Anneke also shared that the collaboration was given a Community Impact Award for collaboration at this year’s UWSC Campaign Celebration on December 13, with Ames Ford Lincoln receiving particular recognition for bringing the program to Story County and ongoing championing of W4W!
- **CyRide:** Shari had to leave before the conclusion of the meeting; they are currently conducting interviews for Barb Neal’s former position.

2020 Meeting Dates: April 8, July 8, October 7

*United Way of Story County Vision: To improve the quality of life in our community for individuals and families.*

*United Way of Story County is a strategic leader in building countywide partnerships to identify needs and to develop, support, and evaluate effective human services, especially in the areas of education, income, and health, for our diverse community.*

**DRAFT Story County Transportation Collaboration –  
Brainstorm of stakeholders to include, Jan. 2020**

\*red = stakeholder &/or contact person suggested at 10/09/19 meeting or at 1/16/20 meeting. Not included yet

Sector	Stakeholder	Contact person
<b>Workforce</b>		
	Ames Chamber	Drew Kamp; <b>Brenda Dryer</b>
	<b>Manpower</b>	
	<b>Other employment agency</b>	
	<b>Nevada Main Street?</b>	<b>Kalen will send name</b>
	<b>Danfoss? Hach? Barilla? 3M? Burke?</b>	<b>Check with Brooke Ramsey</b>
<b>Education</b>		
	<b>Ames Community School District</b>	<b>Leslie Wieble, Transportation Coordinator</b> <a href="mailto:transportation@ames.k12.ia.us">transportation@ames.k12.ia.us</a>
	<b>Nevada CSD</b>	<b>Start with superintendents?</b>
	<b>Colo-NESCO CSD</b>	
	<b>Collins-Maxwell CSD</b>	
	<b>Roland-Story CSD</b>	
	<b>Ballard CSD</b>	
	<b>Gilbert CSD</b>	
	<b>DMACC</b>	<b>Jeff Kelly</b>
	<b>Private schools: St. Cecilia, Ames Christian?</b>	
<b>Childcare</b>		
	<b>ChildServe</b>	
	<b>ACPC</b>	<b>Elizabeth Miner</b>
	<b>YSS Kids Club</b>	
<b>ASSET Funders</b>		
	<b>ISU Student Gov't</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Ask Lucy?</b></li> </ul>
	<b>UWSC</b>	<b>Anneke Mundel, Jean Kresse</b>
	<b>Story County</b>	<b>See local gov't</b>
	<b>City of Ames</b>	<b>See local gov't</b>
<b>Health</b>		
	<b>MGMC</b>	<b>Karen Kiel-Rosser (Micci Gillespie)</b>
	<b>McFarland Clinic</b>	<b>Roger Kluesner (Marcia Hove)</b>
	<b>Primary Health Care</b>	<b>Miguel Biott</b>
	<b>Story County Medical Center</b>	<b>Kalen will give contact</b>
<b>Human Services</b>		
	<b>NAMI</b>	<b>Angela Tharp</b>
	<b>MICA</b>	<b>Josie Stahlin, Gloria Symons, Julie Isaacson</b>
	<b>ERP</b>	<b>Jodi Stumbo</b>

	ACCESS	Cassandra Kramer
	Salvation Army	Cari McPartland
	Story County Community Services	Kathy Johnson
	AIRA/AMOS	Diane Birt, Janet Gray
	Mainstream Living	Kris Eastman, Amber Schaefer
	Heartland Senior Services	Nancy Carroll, Laurie Yocum, Shala Harsh
	Central Iowa Center for Independent Living	Tanya Ferguson
	Aging Resources	Margaret Desio
	The Arc of Story County	Tricia Crain
<b>Transportation Providers</b>		
	CyRide	Shari Atwood, Barb Neal
	HIRTA	Amber Falls, Brooke Ramsey, Julia Castillo, Jess Sherzan
	RSVP	Kalen Petersen, Jessica Bullock
	Ambassador (Des Moines area)	Ron Moore. 515-249-8295
<b>Local governments</b>		
	Ames - City	Brian Phillips, Damien Pregitzer, Vanessa Baker-Latimer
	Story County	Lauris Olson, Linda Murken
	Nevada -City	Anneke reach out to Lauris
	Other municipalities?	
<b>Others</b>		
	Iowa State Transportation for students and faculty	Kathy Wellik (ISU)
	Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services	
	Eyerly Ball	Anneke reach out