



Story County Transportation Collaboration
Wednesday, July 7, 2021, 1:00 pm via Zoom
MINUTES

Present: Shari Atwood (CyRide/AAMPO), Nick Sorensen (Ames Chamber/AEDC), Kalen Petersen (RSVP), Kris Eastman (Mainstream), Kathy Johnson (Story County Community Services), Josie Stahlin (MICA), Margaret Desio (Ageing Resources), Riley Jones (CICIL), Latifah Faisal (Story County Board of Supervisors), Jodi Stumbo (The Bridge Home), Roger Kluesner (McFarland Clinic), Kathy Wellik (ISU Transportation Services), Anneke Mundel (UWSC)

- I. Introductions
- II. Review April 7, 2021 Meeting Minutes – Minutes were accepted as written.
- III. Story County Vehicle Repair Fund (MICA) – Stahlin reported that a subcommittee of the Transportation Collaboration has been meeting to provide guidance to the pilot Vehicle Repair Fund. MICA is trying the administration on a trial basis, starting shortly. The plan is to assist one eligible, working household per month, up to \$500 of assistance (mechanics' labor costs will be reduced or waived). MICA will use a point system to decide which household to assist.
- IV. Accessible Transportation Coalition Initiative (HIRTA) – Brooke Ramsey was unable to attend due to technology issues but emailed the following: "I think the biggest update would be Karla Webb has been working to pull in some additional partners (listed in file). The next meeting is 7/12 if anyone would like to participate." Stumbo wondered if ATCI might be able to help address The Bridge Home's need for workforce-related transportation (to Burke and other area employers); she will reach out to HIRTA.
- V. Story County Board of Supervisors' American Rescue Plan Household Impact [Survey](#) – Sandra King requested that the Transportation Collaboration members consider completing this survey: "We are reaching out to engage stakeholders and seek your feedback on how nonprofit agencies, individuals, and families were impacted by COVID-19. We want your assistance in finding the most effective ways to address the most pressing needs of Story County residents. Your feedback will help us deploy funds in ways that can make the greatest impact. Please take a moment to complete and return the Story County ARP Household Impact Survey by July 13, 2021." Supervisor Faisal, who was in attendance, said that the BOS is aware that transportation is a big need, especially for workforce and for vehicle repairs. Other areas that the BOS can use ARP dollars are in broadband expansion, wastewater, childcare, food assistance, workforce, and more – as long as an impact from the pandemic can be demonstrated. Faisal invited the public to attend their meetings, currently held via Zoom on Tuesday afternoons, and/or to email input.
- VI. Updates from partners:
 - a. Board of Supervisors – Faisal said that the county is considering financially supporting the new pool at the Ames High School but is seeking ideas for transportation to help those from communities outside of Ames access this new resource. Please email her at: Latifah A. Faisal <LFaisal@storycountyiowa.gov>
 - b. HIRTA Grocery Delivery Service (Ames) – Danny Schnathorst had shared a flyer in advance.
 - c. CyRide – Atwood shared that CyRide obtained an Automatic Passenger Grant from FTA and the Iowa Developmental Disability Council to equip CyRide's entire fleet with APCs. Passengers will be able to see how full a bus is prior to boarding CyRide. Implementation will be moving forward this summer/fall. The intention of the APCs is mitigate covid-19 exposure and increase passenger confidence. Atwood noted that rider numbers have been down: they are looking for ways to increase fixed route and para-transit (Dial-A-Ride) riders. Additionally, Atwood shared that CyRide is looking for drivers: the starting wage is \$16.90/hour and those with clean driving records and drug tests are encouraged to apply. Atwood also

reminded everyone that masks continue to be required on public transit. Atwood encouraged individuals with disabilities needing transportation in Ames to apply for

<https://www.cyride.com/schedules/dial-a-ride-ada-paratransit> which provides door-to-door transportation. The application link can be found at: <https://www.cyride.com/dar-application>

- d. RSVP – Petersen said that their grocery delivery service (in collaboration with Heartland Senior Services) started in May, and they currently have 7 registered users. The users were referrals from Home-Delivered Meals and RSVP. Petersen also noted that they have 20 volunteer drivers for this program and are tracking rides through the Assisted Rides platform. Petersen encouraged additional referrals of those who are isolated either by mobility issues or lack of a vehicle. – Petersen also shared that rides are back up to 75% capacity, with several new drivers recently recruited.
- e. Mainstream Living – Eastman shared that the Center re-opened partially in March, and they have been gradually adding individuals/capacity.
- f. CICIL – Riley Jones introduced herself as a new staff who is helping with job development 2 days per week in Ames. She noted that transportation is the key barrier for clients, so she is looking forward to learning of resources.
- g. The Bridge Home – Stumbo said that the last year was their busiest yet, with 1,800 individuals served (compared to 1,300 in the previous year). Stumbo noted that TBH staff have been busy working to get individuals housed, with great success. Their 10 supportive housing units are all full, with one unit housing 3 individual men. Stumbo said that the barrier to further expansion is staff caseloads (8-10 households is the maximum they can serve). – Stumbo also noted her appreciation for TBH’s partnership with Ames Chamber in the Workforce Solutions program. This program is working to help sheltered individuals obtain employment. Transportation is one key barrier at present.
- h. McFarland Clinic – Kluesner shared that the main vaccine clinic (at McFarland South) is closing next week after providing 41,000+ shots. He said that patients will instead be able to receive covid-19 vaccines through their primary care providers (peds, adult med, etc.), with same-day availability. Kluesner noted that HIRTA’s transportation was key to the success of the McFarland South clinic; it is being closed due to dropping demand. – Kluesner also reminded all that masks are still required at McFarland, per CDC guidance and President Biden’s mandate for healthcare facilities.
- i. Story County Community Services – Johnson stated that the Centralized Intake System for rent/utility applications launched July 1. Individuals seeking rent or utility assistance from SCCS, The Bridge Home, Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance, and The Salvation Army are now being directed to SCCS to do one application that will go to all providers. Johnson noted that that the goal is to reduce “running around” for clients, a particular challenge for those without transportation. She said that applications for assistance were up so far in July as a result.
- j. Ames Chamber/Ames Economic Development Commission – Sorensen introduced himself, noting that he serves all communities in Story County outside of Ames and Nevada. Two major projects/areas of focus currently are regional broadband (with a recent study identifying gaps in service that were not evident in previous census tracts data) and housing (currently working on sharing the County Housing Study with mayors and councils).
- k. Aging Resources – Desio shared that they are offering free Uber and Lyft rides to those 60 and older through a program called “Go-Go Grandparent” and funded by the Iowa Department of Aging. Interested clients should call Aging Resources (515-255-1310) to apply for this program. They can then call in ride requests up to 1 roundtrip ride per week or 4 roundtrip rides per month.
- l. United Way – Mundel shared that the Wheels for Work program had its most successful year yet, with 15 vehicles given away in FY20-21. She said that 3 new vehicles were recently donated and encouraged applications from eligible households; intake agencies are SCCS, The Salvation Army, MICA, and ACCESS. – Mundel also invited anyone interested to attend the UWSC’s Community Conversations on their 5-year Community Impact Goals. These are being held July 8 (10 am via Zoom) and July 15 (noon, Ames City Hall). [RSVP here](#).

Reminder: Please send any [transportation brochure \(www.cyride.com/sct\)](http://www.cyride.com/sct) changes directly to Shari Atwood, <shari.atwood@cyride.com>

Meeting adjourned at 1:50 pm.

2021 Meeting Dates: October 6, 1 pm *(Zoom format until otherwise announced)*

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.