



Story County Transportation Collaboration
Wednesday, October 6, 2021, 1:00 pm, via Zoom
MINUTES

Present: Tara Brown (The Bridge Home), Latifah Faisal (Story County Board of Supervisors), Kathy Johnson (Story County Community Services), Sharee Huffer (Ageing Resources), Roger Kluesner (McFarland Clinic), Deb Schildroth (City of Ames), Anneke Mundel (United Way of Story County)

- I. Introductions
- II. Review July 7, 2021 Meeting Minutes – No comments were made; minutes accepted as written.
- III. Discussion of 2022 Meeting Schedule: Move to 2nd Wednesday of the month? – Mundel asked if it might work to move the 2022 meeting dates back to the 2nd Wednesday of the month given some standing meeting conflicts with the 1st Wednesday. Those in attendance were in agreement. Mundel said she would check with others and then confirm with calendar invites. (If confirmed, 2022 dates would be January 12, April 13, July 13, October 12.)
- IV. Transportation Collaboration logo – Mundel shared some possible logos that the UWSC Marketing Director developed. Those in attendance felt logos including the words “Story County” would be preferable and also suggested a color scheme other than black and yellow (given that we live in Cyclone country ☺). All are asked to participate in a [Doodle Poll](#) to help narrow options; please participate by Wednesday, October 13.
- V. Story County Vehicle Repair Fund – Mundel shared an update from the working group that has been exploring this possibility: MICA has had to withdraw from participation as the lead agency. Additionally, local mechanics are currently faced with lots of work with limited staff, so few were able to commit to providing free or reduced cost labor to the Vehicle Repair Fund project at this time. Mundel said that the working group agreed to revisit this idea in a year’s time, but that they would welcome any “leads” for other potential lead agencies, etc. in the interim. Johnson said she was sorry to hear this but understood the constraints. Faisal wondered if DMACC or school district auto-classes might be engaged; Mundel said she had reached out to DMACC Hunziker and learned that partnering with them was not a possibility.
- VI. *Postponed until January:* Accessible Transportation Coalition Initiative (HIRTA) – Presentation by Julia Castillo or staff
- VII. Updates from Partners:

Ageing Resources – Sharee Huffer shared that she is the new representative as Margaret Desio is transitioning into retirement. She shared that Aging Resources is currently in the RFP stage of its process, with applications for funding to provide services to people (60+ and older) due November 8. Transportation-related applications are being accepted. For more, click [here](#).

Story County Board of Supervisors – Latifah Faisal shared that the county is currently accepting the first round of agency applications for [American Rescue Plan Act funds](#) (through October 15); another round of applications will be announced once the first round has been reviewed and processed. Faisal also noted that she is working with a group associated with the League of Women Voters in holding 1:1 meetings countywide; the goal is to learn from individuals experiencing transportation barriers.

The Bridge Home – Tara Brown noted that TBH has hired a new Development Director who is working to find resources for ongoing transportation costs of clients. These costs include CyRide bus tickets and local cab rides. Brown estimates they purchase \$100 - \$150 worth of bus tickets monthly, buying “green” (discounted) tickets for those with Medicaid. Brown noted that TBH was unsuccessful in securing a bulk or discounted rate from CyRide at this time. - Brown also shared that they regularly have clients in need of vehicle repairs; they are able

to use Homeless Prevention dollars for one-time expenses such as this, but Troy (Associate Director) also has been working actively to develop partnerships with mechanics to establish reduced rates. – Additionally, Brown noted that TBH has been partnering with Good Neighbor’s gas voucher program, with TBH able to provide gas vouchers directly to their clients.

City of Ames – CyRide: Schildroth stated that CyRide is in need of drivers and is offering a \$1,000 sign-on bonus. CyRide also is helping applicants obtain their CDL if needed. Ridership is increasing, with 70% of pre-pandemic numbers. – **Dial-A-Ride:** Schildroth noted both an increase in applications for this program and also riders. –

Climate Action Plan: The City’s first Climate Action Plan is being developed in collaboration with consultants and a 27-person taskforce. They are exploring ways to reduce greenhouse emissions, which include exploring transportation options (ex/bikes, carpools, e-vehicles) to reduce emissions from commuters. Public input can be provided at an upcoming townhall meeting on October 25, 6 pm, or by calling or emailing Schildroth: 515.239.5202 / deb.schildroth@cityofames.org.

Central Iowa RSVP – Kalen Petersen provided the following updates: **Completed trips** the first quarter of this fiscal year (July – Sept. 2021) are up 54% over last fiscal year (July – Sept. 2020). The first quarter of this FY we completed 181 round trips vs. 84 round trips the first quarter of 2020. - Clients signing up for **grocery delivery** service is growing slowly. “We only have 2 clients accessing our grocery delivery service every week (one in Ames and one in Slater). Others are signed up but not needing the volunteer grocery delivery on a regular basis. We are really only receiving applications by referral. Ideally, clients should have access to the internet and a device they can order through (computer, tablet, smart phone, i.e.). We are currently trying to figure out how we can work through the challenges of helping residents who do not have internet access and/or a computer/phone but need help with grocery delivery.” – Petersen asked for transportation options for an individual (senior citizen) seeking transportation to Ames for OWI classes. Faisal suggested contacting the license reinstatement program through the county (515-232-4185) or the Iowa DOT through their Temporary Restricted License program.

McFarland Clinic – Roger Kluesner shared that the 3rd booster dose of the Pfizer coronavirus vaccine is now available, with eligible individuals encouraged to schedule an appointment via the website. He also asked that transportation carriers continue to wear masks as that facilitates drop-offs and compliance with McFarland’s mask mandates.

United Way of Story County-Wheels for Work – Mundel said that 2 vehicles have been given away through this program in FY21-22 so far. There is currently a wait-list of 5 individuals. Donations of used vehicles and applicants continue to be welcomed. Detailed program information can be found [here](#).

Meeting adjourned 1:41 pm.

Reminder: Please send any [transportation brochure](#) changes directly to Shari Atwood, <satwood@cyride.com>

2022 Meeting Dates: Dates TBA for January, April, July, October (*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.