



Story County Transportation Collaboration
April 13, 2022 - 1:00 pm via Zoom
Meeting Minutes

Present: Deb Schildroth (City of Ames), Kris Eastman (Mainstream Living), Kalen Petersen (RSVP), Jessica Bullock (RSVP), Sharee Huffer (Aging Resources), Shari Atwood (CyRide), Danny Schnathorst (HIRTA), Brooke Ramsey (HIRTA), Grant Olsen, Linda Hagedorn (League of Women Voters), Chris Mondak (LWV), Kathy Pinkerton (The Salvation Army), Roger Kluesner (McFarland Clinic), Shayla McDougal (The Bridge Home), Anneke Mundel (United Way)

I. Introductions

II. Review January 12, 2022 Meeting Minutes: The minutes were accepted as written.

III. RSVP – Overview of Transportation Services: Petersen and Bullock provided an overview of RSVP and its transportation services. Their PowerPoint presentation is attached. Petersen noted that Aging Resources also will be a funder of this service starting July 1, 2022. – *Discussion:* Petersen thanked the League of Women Voters for helping recruit additional drivers. Mundel asked which federal regulations disallow fees for service. Petersen said this stipulation comes along with AmeriCorps funding. Schildroth asked if rising gas prices are affecting volunteers' willingness/ability to provide transportation. Petersen and Bullock noted that this has not yet affected services, though there has been a conversation about potentially increasing the current mileage reimbursement rate (of \$0.53/mile) if this becomes an issue. Petersen noted that few volunteer drivers ever ask for mileage reimbursement anyway, preferring to donate their time and use of their vehicle. Mondak wondered how many trips RSVP has to decline. Petersen said this occurs very occasionally (perhaps once or twice per year); they do not formally track this data. Generally, RSVP works to accommodate rider needs if at all possible (ex/ they recently added transportation to Heartland's Adult Day program). Bullock shared that RSVP recently had to decline a rider who was unable to wear a seatbelt (due to liability and driver comfort/concern). Ramsey shared that HIRTA also requires riders to wear seatbelts, though they will work with riders on a case-by-case basis if needed. Pinkerton asked if her Representative Payee clients might be able to access transportation from RSVP as some currently take cabs. Petersen said this would be considered transportation for a basic need and thought this should be covered.

IV. Public awareness about transportation services: Mundel reminded attendees of the barrier mentioned at the last meeting, namely residents not being familiar with transportation options and how to access. She also reminded attendees of one tool: the Story County Transportation Brochure which has been regularly updated by Shari Atwood (thank you!), with the most recent update on January 1, 2022. This version includes the new Story County Transportation Collaboration's blue and yellow logo.

- a. [2022 Transportation Brochure](#) - As edits are needed, please send to Shari Atwood, <satwood@cyride.com>
- b. Other current ideas/activities – No additional awareness ideas were raised. Mundel noted this topic will be surfaced at a future meeting, perhaps when the League of Women Voters has decided on their next steps for their Rural Transportation Study.

V. Updates from partners

- a. **United Way of Story County** – Mundel shared that she and Kathy Wellik of ISU and this Collaboration participated in City of Ames' [Climate Action Plan](#) focus group on transportation on March 24 (along with other stakeholders). Mundel also stated that Wheels for Work continues to have limited donations given the micro-chip shortage; the 6th vehicle of this fiscal year is slated to be given away tomorrow. Finally, Mundel noted that the big annual LIVE UNITED Food Drive is coming up, April 25 – May 5, with many

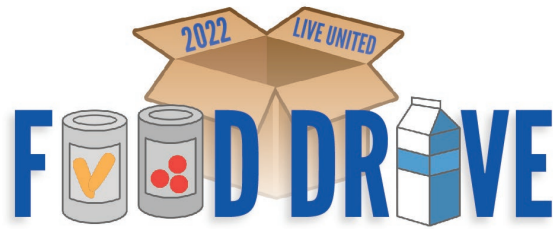
collection sites throughout the county (including RSVP in Ames and Story City and United Way in Ames). Flyer attached.

- b. **City of Ames** – Schildroth provided a comprehensive overview of the City of Ames’ Climate Action Plan process. This work has been undertaken due to the City’s focus on sustainability. So far, the consultants have conducted a survey, held focus groups, and convened an input committee to get feedback on the proposed “6 big moves” to arrive at the goal of net-zero emissions by 2050. Two of these moves directly relate to transportation: 1) reducing vehicle emissions (through more electric vehicles and bio-diesel use as an interim step) and 2) increasing both public transit use and active transportation (biking, walking, etc). Schildroth said a technical team is now deciding on next steps and will present these to Council in late June/early July. The goal is to have a finalized plan by fall 2022. Schildroth said that the City continues to welcome comments/questions by email; they also would be willing to provide presentations to any interested groups. – Several other events of potential interest include: Stash The Trash and Stream Clean-Up on April 30 (flyer attached), community input on crosswalks at Bloomington on April 26, community input on the Grand Avenue Intersection Improvement Study on April 28 (6-7:30 pm), and the Water Treatment Open House on April 23 (10 am – 2 pm).
- c. **CyRide** – Atwood shared that the City of Ames was successful in a recent major grant for 5 new buses, including several new articulated buses. She thanked members of the Transportation Collaboration for their letters of support. Atwood also noted that the Iowa DOT is planning to submit a new application to replace diesel buses after a recent unsuccessful grant application.
- d. **HIRTA** – Schnathorst welcomed all to participate in the upcoming “Beyond The Bus: Healthcare on the Move” event, April 26, 9 am – 3:45 pm, virtual, free. Agenda can be [viewed here](#). He also reminded the Collaboration of the Van Pool webinar being offered next week with a focus on helping employees reach their places of employment; employers are particularly encouraged to attend this webinar. (Flyer attached)
- e. **The Salvation Army** – Pinkerton shared that they are looking for a part-time Donation Pick-Up Assistant/Driver. This position is 25 hours / week and offers benefits. [Click for more information](#).
- f. **McFarland Clinic** – Kluesner noted that McFarland continues to follow CDC guidelines; the mask ordinance on public transportation was just extended to May 3. He also thanked all transportation providers for their hard work to get patients to the clinic and other care sites.
- g. **League of Women Voters** – Hagedorn said that their annual meeting will be held on April 22. This meeting is open to the public. Send Hagedorn an email for more information: Prez.LWV@gmail.com
- h. **The Bridge Home** – McDougal noted that transportation continues to be a significant barrier for her housing clients. For example: she recently struggled to secure transportation for a client for an apartment viewing.

Meeting adjourned at 1:57 pm.

Additional 2022 Meeting Dates: July 13 and October 12 (*Zoom format until otherwise announced*)

Potential future meeting topic: League of Women Voters Rural Transportation Study – Reprise (Chris Mondak/Linda Hagedorn).



APRIL 25 - MAY 5

The need is great. Roughly **1 in 4 children face hunger** in Story County. Help us stock the pantries full before school gets out for the summer! Pantries all across the county will benefit from physical and monetary donations. Support those in need and donate today!

2022 DROP OFF LOCATIONS

AMES

10Fold Architecture
Ames Ford Lincoln
Ames Golf & Country Club
Ames High School
Ames Home School Mileage Club
Ames Jewish Congregation
Ames Middle School Builder's Club
Availa Bank
Bankers Trust
Central Iowa RSVP
ChildServe
Collegiate Presbyterian Church
Collegiate United Methodist Church

CAST (Council for Ag Sci/Tech)
Danfoss Power Solutions (both sites)
Dentistry At Somerset
Edwards Elementary School
First National Bank (all sites)
Fox Engineering
Friedrich Iowa Realty
Friendship Ark
Greater Iowa Credit Union (all sites)
Harvest Vineyard Church
Haverkamp Properties
Hunziker & Associates
Ignite Yoga

InStyle Salon in JCPenney
Iowa State University (multiple sites)
Kinzler Construction
MGMC Home Health Services
Mitchell Elementary Mileage Club
Northwest Bank
Renewable Energy Group
South Story Bank & Trust
Story Construction
United Way of Story County
Vision Bank (all sites)
Wilson Toyota

RECEIVING PANTRIES:

Ames HOPE Student Pantry, Bethesda Pantry, Calvary United Methodist, Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance (emergency food voucher program), MICA, The Salvation Army, The S.H.O.P. at ISU

NEVADA/MAXWELL

Almaco
Burke Corporation
Central Presbyterian Church
First United Methodist Church

Great Western Bank
Nevada Schools (all 3 schools)
State Bank & Trust
Story County Administration Building

Story County Medical
(Nevada and Maxwell)
Sweet Oaks Bakery + Bistro (Collins)

RECEIVING PANTRIES:

Collins Maxwell Community Food Pantry, Colo-NESCO School Pantry, Colo Community Food Pantry, Cubbies Cupboard at Nevada Schools, Nevada Food at First (Meal Site), Nevada Community Cupboard

GILBERT/SC

Central Iowa RSVP (Story City)
Eby (Story City)

Gilbert High School
Reliance State Bank (Story City)

Winfield United (Story City)

RECEIVING PANTRIES:

Story City Loaves & Fishes, Roland-Story Norseman School Pantry, Zearing McCallsburg Food Pantry

HUXLEY

Fidelity Bank (Huxley)

South Story Bank & Trust
(Huxley and Slater)

Vision Bank (Huxley)

RECEIVING PANTRIES:

Ballard Community Clothing/Food Pantry, Cambridge Food Pantry, Huxley Food Pantry, Slater/Sheldahl Food Pantry

Also participating are 3M, Boehringer Ingelheim, Mary Greeley Medical Center, McFarland Clinic, and Ortho2 hosting internal drives.

Cash donations also accepted:

www.uwstory.org/donate OR scan to donate via Venmo

select LIVE UNITED Food Drive under initiative

Scan code:



Contact: Susan Gwiasda, Public Relations Officer, susan.gwiasda@cityofames.org, 515.239.5204
Bill Schmitt, Resource Recovery Plant Superintendent, bill.schmitt@cityofames.org, 515.239.5137
Liz Calhoun, Stormwater Resource Analyst, liz.calhoun@cityofames.org, 515.239.5575

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 11, 2022

Stash the Trash and Stream Clean-Up is April 30

AMES, Iowa – Two community sustainability events, the annual Stash the Trash and the Ioway Creek Stream Clean-Up, are scheduled for Saturday, April 30. These events are co-sponsored by City of Ames and local partners.

“These are terrific opportunities for those interested in sustainability and giving back to the community,” said Resource Recovery Plant Superintendent Bill Schmitt. “After a long winter, garbage can collect in public spaces around Ames. We need help from volunteers to get those areas cleaned up and the garbage collected and properly disposed of.”



Stash the Trash is an annual volunteer community clean-up. Participants choose an area of the city to pick up litter and drop it off at the dumpster located in the parking lot at Reiman Gardens, 1407 University Blvd. The dumpster will be available from Friday, April 29, through Sunday, May 1, to drop off garbage collected during the community clean-up.

Volunteers may pick up bags at the Resource Recovery Plant, 110 Center Ave., or the east lobby of City Hall, 515 Clark Ave., beginning Monday, April 18. Bags will also be available the morning of April 30 at the dumpster location. For more information, please call the Resource Recovery Plant at 515.239.5137.

The Stream Clean-Up of trash along Ioway Creek will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 30. Volunteers for this event must register by Monday, April 25. The event is co-hosted with Iowa State University Facilities and Planning Management, ISU Office of Sustainability, Prairie Rivers of Iowa, Outdoor Alliance, Skunk River Paddlers, and Story County Conservation. More information and online registration is available at https://www.prrcd.org/_ioway_creek_cleanup/.

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JOIN US TO LEARN ABOUT OUR

Vanpool Program



HIRTA is hosting a webinar about our vanpool program and how we can help resolve employment transportation needs.

April 20, 2022 | 2:00 pm

Register by clicking [here](#).



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www.RideHIRTA.com



VOLUNTEER DRIVER TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM



CENTRAL IOWA
RSVP
Connecting People To Purpose



This service is funded locally by United Way of Story County, the City of Ames, Story County, and community donations.

PROGRAM HISTORY AND PURPOSE:

Developed in 2010

- County-wide needs assessment revealed transportation gaps for residents (2009)
- United Way approached RSVP about the possibility of developing a transportation program utilizing volunteer drivers

Focus on 'essential services'

- For Story County residents unable to drive and not eligible for Medicaid transportation services
- Priority is medical, dental, and vision
- Pharmacy, grocery shopping, banking, etc.

County wide accessibility

- Current clients in Ames, Nevada, Story City, Roland, Huxley, Slater, Cambridge, Colo, Maxwell
- Trips for specialty providers in Des Moines (ie: VA) upon volunteer availability

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS:

- **Criteria**
 - All drivers use personal vehicles
 - Valid insurance, current license, pass criminal and DMV background checks
- **County-wide**
 - Current drivers in Sheldahl, Ames, Story City, Nevada, and Gilbert and Zearing
 - Drivers can choose where they drive
- **Assigning drivers**
 - Coordinated through RSVP offices or drivers can access online system and self-assign
 - Never less than 24 hour requests (usually at least 48)

CLIENT RIDERS:

- Resident of Story County
- Approval pending eligibility assessment
- Criteria
 - Provide minimum 48 hour business notice
 - Must be ambulatory (i.e. no wheelchairs)
 - Follow all program policies (provided to them when applying)

PROGRAM COSTS:

In compliance with federal regulations there is no fee for service

Donations to support the program are accepted from riders and the community at large

Drivers can request mileage reimbursement (.35 cents/mile)

STATISTICS:

From April 2021- Current

Current number of active drivers: 40

- Number of clients regularly accessing services: 68
- Number of different destinations we have provided trips to: 92 (312 available)
- Number of miles driven by RSVP drivers: 18,463
- Number of hours served by RSVP drivers: 1,377
- Average round trips per month: 70 (recent months higher)
- Average client age: 79

CONTACT US!

STORY CITY OFFICE (trips for Story City/Roland Area):

- 503 Elm Ave,
Story City, IA
50248
- 515-733-4917

AMES OFFICE (Ames and the rest of Story County):

- 110 Crystal St.
Ames, IA 50010
- 515-292-8890