



United Way  
of Story County

## Story County Transportation Collaboration MEETING MINUTES October 25, 2023, 1 pm, via Zoom

**Present:** Linda Murken (Story County BOS), Moriah Morgan (UWSC), Grant Olsen, Amber Schaefer (Mainstream), Sherry Zook (SC Public Health), Beth Lucht (Friendship Ark), Nikki Fischer (Ames Chamber), Basil Heintzman (HeartCorps), Lisa Heddens (Story County BOS), Shari Atwood (CyRide/AAMPO), Danny Schnathorst (HIRTA), Sharee Huffer (Aging Resources), Laura Severson (RSVP), Julia Castillo (HIRTA), Erin Botterbredt (First Five-MICA), Chelsea Flack (Story County General Assistance), Bill Stodden (Good Neighbor), Anneke Mundel (UWSC)

- I. Introductions
- II. Review July Meeting Minutes – Minutes were accepted as written.
- III. **Works to identify transportation needs and address them:**
- IV. **Story County BOS – wish to include more residents from “rural” Story County / outside of Ames –** Lisa Heddens, Story County Board of Supervisors, stated that the Board hears regularly about transportation “barriers” but does not have a clear sense of what those are. Heddens said that she, along with HIRTA staff, have been sharing transportation resource information throughout the rural parts of Story County, including by putting information in libraries, community centers, and community/city newsletters. According to some City clerks and mayors, they “take care of their own.” Schaefer asked if there was a specific population that the Board wants to hear from. Castillo noted that some of the “barriers” may be misnomers (for example, some residents may not be aware of the availability of particular transportation resources), so what is needed is granularity/detail. Mundel suggested digging in on what the barriers are: funds for gas? No vehicle/need for bus? Etc. Heintzman wondered if the barriers are within the smaller communities, between the smaller communities and Ames, etc. Castillo said that HIRTA has a survey tool that they could modify to help gain this kind of information. Zook said that Story County Public Health nurses offer clinics throughout the county and would be willing to provide the survey to their patients in Colo, Maxwell, and beyond. Fischer said that she hears of barriers faced by clients of the Workforce Training Program, so she would support such a survey. Botterbredt said that MICA First Five staff would be willing to provide the survey to their clients/families as well, while Heddens added that she request that city clerks put a QR code in their community newsletters. The HIRTA team will work with Heddens to develop a tool; Mundel will disseminate to the Transportation Collaboration list once this is available. A goal is to have a survey ready to use by December 8, when HIRTA has planned outreach in Colo, if not before.
- V. **The Salvation Army’s “Story County Vehicle Maintenance and Repair Fund” –** Kathy Pinkerton was unable to attend. Mundel said that TSA is currently short-staffed, but that she has heard that the VMRF has many more requests than funds available. Heddens said that she had been in communication with Pinkerton about this project as well.
- VI. **AAMPO Passenger Transportation Plan – Follow-up –** Atwood thanked all who attended the Passenger Transportation Plan meeting on October 11. She requested that all read and review the summary that was emailed out the same day (see attached). Past priorities were ADA, bus stop amenities, small/light-duty buses, and accessibility technology. Atwood said that the AAMPO would

be hosting a second meeting on November 29, 1 – 2:30 pm, at CyRide’s conference room (with a Zoom option), to discuss “additional needs” not able to be funded by Section 5310 funding. The overall AAMPO plan is due to the Dep’t of Transportation on February 1<sup>st</sup>, with final approval in March. As such, Atwood stated there are still ample opportunities for community input.

**VII. Seeks to educate about transportation challenges:**

- a. **Action plan** – Individual stakeholders are educating the public already. A collective plan will be developed if needed. Tabled for now.

**VIII. Provides information/resources about transportation services available:**

- a. **Transportation Brochure** - Mundel thanked Atwood for her comprehensive review and update of the brochure. Collaboration members were encouraged to print the September 2023 version, link to websites, etc, and also to regularly review and send any updates to [satwood@cyride.com](mailto:satwood@cyride.com)
- b. **“Story County At-A-Glance Transportation Provider Services”** – Mundel said that Kalen Petersen of RSVP had reached out and inquired if this one-pager should be updated and put back into circulation. Atwood said that the original intent of this brochure was to take the guesswork out for providers and clients alike. Botterbredt and Flack felt an updated version would be helpful. Heintzman is willing to work on some updates and will plan to share this at the January Collaboration meeting.

**IX. Updates from partners:**

- **Aging Resources** – Huffer said that their RFP process is currently open.
- **Ames Chamber** – Fischer said that they continue to offer the Workforce Retraining Program in partnership with DMACC and Story County. CDL training/certification is an available option. Reach out to [nikki@ameschamber.com](mailto:nikki@ameschamber.com) for more information.
- **City of Ames, including CyRide** – Atwood stated that new paratransit/Dial-A-Ride schedules have been released and can be viewed <https://www.cyride.com/schedules/dial-a-ride-ada-paratransit> or the brochure can be downloaded at: <https://www.cyride.com/home/showpublisheddocument/8324/638240023808000000>  
Olsen shared: “The final draft of the City of Ames Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan (a.k.a. Walk Bike Roll) is expected to be released in mid-November 2023 for a final opportunity for public input. Be watching the City of Ames website and social media in November for an announcement of the draft's release and an open house for an opportunity to talk with city staff. <https://www.cityofames.org/government/departments-divisions-i-z/public-works/traffic/walk-bike-roll-ames> - Finally, Atwood shared that CyRide is proposing new services for FY2025 = Weekend Services (#9 Plum & #11 Cherry) AND Later Evening Service (#6 Brown on weekdays to extend route to ISU Research Park from 8pm to 10pm instead of ending at Towers.)
- **Friendship Ark** – Lucht said clients are using transportation services again post-covid.
- **Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance** – Stodden joined toward the end of the meeting and noted that the demand for gas vouchers has been high, including from out of state (Omaha area). Mundel suggested updating the information in the 211 database (email Agency Updates Email: [recordupdates@uwmidlands.org](mailto:recordupdates@uwmidlands.org)) to specify that the assistance is for Story County, Iowa, residents only.

- Heartland of Story County – Schildroth sent an email, sharing that the assigned Outreach Staff has taken a new position. A new representative will be appointed and in attendance soon.
- Heart of Iowa Regional Transit (HIRTA) – Schnathorst will be at the Colo Library on December 8 to promote HIRTA services.
- ISU Transportation Services – No one was present to give updates.
- League of Women Voters – Mundel stated that both Mondak and Hagedorn have asked to step down from the Transportation Collaboration now that their rural transportation study is done.
- Mainstream Living – Schaeffer said they have found that the CyRide app really promotes their clients' independence.
- MGMC / Story County Public Health – Zook noted that they continue to offer senior and child clinics and currently have an intern to help.
- McFarland Clinic – Talbot had emailed her regrets.
- MICA – Botterbredt said that MICA's representatives will be Jana Larsen (Maternal Child and Adolescent Health Coordinator) and Jessica Miller (1<sup>st</sup> Five program). Reach out at Jana Larsen [jana.larsen@micaonline.org](mailto:jana.larsen@micaonline.org) and Jessica Miller [Jessica.miller@micaonline.org](mailto:Jessica.miller@micaonline.org)
- Primary Health Care Inc. – No one was present to give updates.
- RSVP (Central Iowa) – Severson said that RSVP is looking for additional drivers for the Volunteer Driver program, particularly in the eastern Story County and Story City/northern areas.
- Story County BOS and General Assistance – No updates.
- The Arc of Story County – No one was present to give updates.
- The Salvation Army – No one was present to give updates.
- United Way of Story County – Mundel said that the Wheels for Work program got its first two drivable/giftable donations this month. A manual Jetta was given to a working family on October 25; a Lincoln SUV will be awarded at the start of November.

**Planned 2024 Meeting Dates** (*4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the quarter, via Zoom*): January 24, April 24, July 24, October 23 – all at 1 pm.