

**IOWA NORTHLAND REGIONAL
TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2022

MINUTES

Durant called the meeting of the Iowa Northland Regional Transit Advisory Committee (TAC) to order at 10:01 a.m.

Meeting Attendees:	Mark Durbahn	AECOM
	Mindy Benson	Black Hawk Emergency Management
	Lisa Sesterhenn	Black Hawk County Health Department
	Jan Heidemann	Bremer County CPC
	Sheila Baird	Cedar Valley United Way
	Rob Green	City of Cedar Falls
	Aric Schroeder	City of Waterloo
	Danny Laudick	Grow Cedar Valley
	Todd Rickert	Grundy County Social Services
	Susan Backes	House of Hope
	Emma Borchers	Iowa DOT
	Kyle Clabby-Kane	Iowa Workforce Development
	David Sturch	MET Transit
	Lon Kammeyer	MET Transit Board
	Rosalyn Middleton	MET Transit Board
	Rick Newlon	UnityPoint
	Carter Baldwin	INRCOG
	Aldina Dautović	INRCOG
	Kyle Durant	INRCOG
	Brenda Vavroch	INRCOG

The first item was to review and consider approval of the agenda. It was moved by Heidemann, seconded by Schroeder to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Next was to review and consider approval of the minutes for the May 11, 2021 Transit Advisory Committee meeting. It was moved by Baird, seconded by Sesterhenn to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was a presentation by AECOM on the 4th/5th/6th Street project. Durant asked if there was potential to include a bus stop and pull out along 5th Street in place of parking. Durbahn said there may be an opportunity to do so. Backes also supported bus stops and shelters, noting the project's surrounding population demographics as many people residing in the area use alternative transportation options like buses. Sturch said he could gather data from bus drivers to find out where high frequency stops are located along the routes to potentially coordinate some bus shelters. Baird asked if the project requires acquiring houses around the proposed roundabout at Six Corners. Durbahn said minor right-of-way would be required, but acquisition of houses would not be necessary. Durbahn added that AECOM has presented the project to City Council and is now in the process of scheduling a stakeholder meeting for February. Durant will forward details to the group when a date and time is set.

Next was an update on the MET Transit fixed route restructuring. Sturch presented a map showing updated fixed routes for Waterloo. The goal of the route restructuring project is to reduce ride times. One-hour circular routes will be adjusted to an out-and-back system of 30-minute ride intervals. The implementation timeline is set for this upcoming summer. Marketing and educational components will consist of public hearings and informing seniors about changes through INCOG's SNAP-ed project. Backes and Durant asked about the earliest possible launch date for the route restructuring. Sturch said no earlier than July 1 as MET Transit is currently looking for drivers as well as driver

input for the new routes. When asked how TAC members can assist with the MET Transit route restructuring, Backes offered to share job descriptions for drivers and Laudick offered support for ridership and awareness. Middleton suggested adding weather notices and delays on the MET Transit application. Baldwin added that many communities have "Mobility Coordinators" which help residents navigate transportation options available in their community.

Next was an update on the East Central Region Transportation Gap Analysis with the University of Iowa. Heidemann said the class will be led by Steven Spears and will look at transportation needs and barriers within East Central communities. Professors assisting with the project may reach out to the communities regarding the class or research.

The next item on the agenda was agency updates. Durant provided a report on electric scooter companies Bird and Helbiz which launched in Downtown Waterloo during summer of 2021. Data obtained from June to September of 2021 shows a total of 16,000 rides and 28,000 miles traveled. Durant added that Bird's ride data alone showed 3.2 metric tons of CO2 saved.

Baldwin provided an update on the rebranding of RTA, now called OnBoard Public Transit. OnBoard provides regional transportation to the six-county INRCOG region. While MET Transit provides fixed routes, OnBoard provides rural and high mileage trips on an on-call and schedule-fixed system. Baldwin added that OnBoard is hiring for a Transit Assistant position at INRCOG and a full-time driver position in Independence.

In other business, Middleton asked how often the TAC group meets. Durant said TAC is required by the Iowa DOT to meet at least twice in a state fiscal year. With this being the first meeting for state fiscal year 2022, the group will need to meet at least once more before June 30th. Durant added that the group can meet more often if desired. Baldwin told the group he is open to discussing or receiving feedback about OnBoard Public Transit, and to feel free to reach out to him. Durant said he will schedule the next TAC meeting the next few months and told the group to feel free to contact staff with any items for future agendas.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle Durant
Acting Secretary