

CorridorRides
Transit Operator Group and Passenger Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting
Johnson County SEATS
March 3, 2022

The following individuals were present or on the meeting via conference call:

Transit providers:

- Becky Fry; Iowa County Transportation
- Jamie Ginter; Jones County JETS
- Tom Brase; Johnson County SEATS
- Tom Hardecopf; Linn County LIFTS
- Cris Gaughan; Washington County Minibus
- Dean Vrba; Benton County Transportation

ECICOG Staff:

- Brock Grenis; ECICOG

1.0 Routine Matters

.1 Call to Order Hardecopf called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM and made introductions.

.2 Approval of Minutes After review Vrba moved to approve the minutes from the December 2nd meeting and was seconded by Ginter. Motion carried unanimously.

2.0 New Business

.1 Capital Replacement Update: Grenis reviewed the handout that showed which vehicles have been replaced so far, which ones are awaiting delivery, and which ones are ready to order. In addition, a listing of vehicles that could be replaced in 2023 was reviewed along with questions about replacing vehicles that are in worse shape than others even if they are not on the list to be replaced soon. Hardecopf discussed different options that LIFTS has used in the past. Vrba mentioned prices that are expected to increase each year. Brase asked about procuring electric buses and the group discussed the effort by CalStart and Iowa DOT to administer a procurement for electric buses.

.2 Anticipated Operating Fund Surplus: The group discussed the anticipated surplus of funds after FY2022 concludes and how they may be utilized regionally. Grenis reminded everyone that the reason for this surplus is that some counties do not have enough deficit to receive their full allocation from ECICOG, but with more expenses they will be able to utilize more. After the 3rd quarter the TOG will have a better idea of how much of a surplus the region will have, and some ideas discussed were local match for upcoming vehicle replacements, dispatching software, or new local projects to expand transit services. Vrba mentioned with higher vehicle costs it would be nice to cover some of those extra expenses with leftover funds.

.3 Scheduling and Dispatching Software: Hardecopf explained the recent study being led by IBI group and how Terry Bergen has helped lead this effort so far. Ginter commented that having other software providers come and do demonstrations would be nice to get an idea of what other options exist. Vrba stated that feedback from other transit

regions would be helpful on what software they use and how their customer service issues are handled. The group agreed that Routematch has not been optimal and the biggest issue is the lack customer service and response times.

.4 NTD Reporting: Grenis explained what NTD reporting is, and how he learned at a recent training that there is a possibility that each county provider may have to begin reporting to NTD directly.

.5 Mobility Coordinator Update: Hardecopf gave a brief update of the work Terry Bergen has done up until his departure for a new position with Linn County Public health. The group all agreed that he and the work he undertook will be missed. Brase and Grenis gave updated on recent work that Kelly Schneider has undertaken, including efforts on employment transportation initiatives in Johnson County.

.6 Transportation Needs and Goals: Brase spoke about the ongoing study in Johnson County that Schneider has been involved with, focusing on employment transportation issues. Gaughan mentioned that more demand for trips to Iowa City has been seen by Minibus. The group discussed how many of the overall needs from previous years remain the same, and longterm recovery from pandemic related impacts to ridership continue to be unknown.

3.0 **Old Business:** None

4.0 **Other Discussion Items:** Grenis stated that the Iowa Public Transit Association will be hosting the 2022 meeting in Cedar Rapids this coming July and encouraged everyone to sign up drivers for the bus ROADEO.

5.0 **Set next Meeting date:**
Tentatively set for Wednesday June 1st at Iowa County Transportation. Meeting adjourned at 10:55 AM.