

ECICOG - REGION 10
Transit Operators Group and Passenger Transportation Advisory Meeting
March 3rd 2022

10:00 AM.

Linn County LIFTS (with virtual call-in)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88926728074?pwd=ZkozRDFIM0U3blFwVVVLOVFFRXlHZz09>

Meeting ID: 889 2672 8074

Passcode: 712949

1-312-626-6799

1.0 Routine Matters

- .1 Call to Order
- .2 Approval of December 2, 2021 Minutes

2.0 New Business

- .1 Capital Replacement Update
- .2 Anticipated Operating Fund Surplus (FY22)
- .3 Scheduling and Dispatching Software
- .4 NTD Reporting
- .5 Mobility Coordinator Updates
 - a. Linn County (Terry Job Change)
 - b. Johnson County
- .6 Transportation Needs and Goals

3.0 Old Business

4.0 Other Discussion Items

IPTA ROADEO July 9th

5.0 Set Next Meeting Date – Wednesday June 1st (Iowa County?)

The East Central Iowa Council of Government's meetings are open to all individuals regardless of disability. Any person with a disability requiring a reasonable accommodation to attend this meeting should contact the ECICOG office at (319) 365-9941 at least two business days prior to the meeting.

**CorridorRides
Transit Operator Group Meeting
Johnson County SEATS
December 2, 2021**

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

Others

- Terry Bergen; Linn County Mobility Coordinator
- Kelly Schneider; Johnson County Mobility Coordinator

1.0 Routine Matters

.1 Call to Order Hardecopf called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM and made introductions.

.2 Approval of Minutes After review Hardecopf moved to approve the minutes from the September 2nd meeting and was seconded by Brase. Motion carried unanimously.

2.0 New Business

.1 Capital Replacement Update: Grenis discussed the status of capital replacement, noting that not much has changed from last meeting. LIFTS has two buses, and Benton County has one bus awaiting delivery, and all other buses that have funding for replacement can't be ordered until the DOT finalizes the statewide bus procurement. Discussion followed regarding the anticipated long lead times between ordering and delivery of buses, and how prices could be 30% or more than previous contracts.

.2 Infrastructure and other Federal Funding Updates: The group discussed recent federal funding sources such as CARES and CRSSAA, and how other federal funding might be coming to the state and region soon. There is still uncertainty about how the Iowa DOT will allocate and distribute the funds statewide, including whether it can be used for operations or capital. Bergen stated that it may be useful to do a region-wide study of how to reduce vehicle emissions and how that could prepare the region to utilize increased funding for bus replacement. Schneider discussed inter-county trips and how that requires increased funding and better communication. Brase mentioned utilizing mobile payment solutions that remove the need to handle cash by drivers. The group talked about ideas that may be generated by the regional CTAA technology strike team group for new/different software.

.3 Scheduling and Dispatching Software: Hardecopf explained recent staffing changes at Routematch after being acquired by Uber and how this has led to difficulty getting adequate support and sales information. The group agreed it does not seem like

Routematch has been offering great support as of recently and the problem does not seem like it will be getting better. Bergen discussed the upcoming strike team visits with each county and how this is a great opportunity to explain difficulties with software and share ideas for improvement. Grenis reiterated that this strike team is a great opportunity to learn about new and different software possibilities, including solutions to better provide NTD data.

.4 Annual Compliance Reviews: Grenis stated that Kristin Haar with Iowa DOT will be undertaking a compliance review for Region 10 in the upcoming year which will include a site visit to one county provider. Annual reviews will also be upcoming with each county in which Grenis will visit and go through a checklist, however this is less a compliance check and more so a review of requirements related to drug and alcohol testing, vehicle maintenance, and various other requirements related to public transit.

.5 Mobility Coordinator Update: Bergen stated he is working on Linn County TAG meetings, updating the transportation resource brochure, correspondence on transportation needs related to UIHC, and the recent CTAA expo he attended. Schneider talked about the CTAA design challenge project Johnson County has been involved in to find unique solutions to transportation challenges, and performing travel trainings.

.6 Updates from Each County: Brase explained that service levels have been up and down each month but overall seem to be increasing back to what pre pandemic levels were. SEATS continues to clean and sanitize buses regularly and is having challenges finding enough drivers. SEATS may also be getting a sizable amount of ARPA funds from the county for increased service. Fry talked about Iowa County Transportation being very busy and has hired more full-time office staff to keep up. Much of the increase in demand is due to trips funded by Medicaid. Gaughan discussed the new building expansion project that is under construction and how the weather has allowed progress to be made. Minibus has also been having a difficult time finding and hiring staff. Gaughan questioned minimum vehicle mileage requirements and the group discussed the difficulties in meeting this requirement for the past year but efforts still need to be made to meet this requirement for the current year. Ginter mentioned JETS has been relatively status quo and that Kathy has retired from being a driver. Vrba discussed getting into the swing of things including putting together his first budget, seeking and hiring drivers, and increasing rates for Benton County Transportation service which has actually been well received by the public and riders. Hardecopf stated that service levels are nearly 60% of what pre-pandemic levels were, learning new NTD reporting requirements, difficulty finding people to fill positions that are well suited to the work required, and working on his budget that needs increased funding amounts across the board. LIFTS has also had a very tough time finding parts for buses and is no longer using excels security cameras.

3.0 **Old Business:** None

4.0 **Other Discussion Items:** The group briefly discussed upcoming changes to CDL license, including a rule change that could require more experienced drivers to train new CDL applicants. Any more updates learned will be shared with the group

5.0 **Set next Meeting date:**

Tentatively set for Thursday March 3rd at Linn County LIFTS, unless it will be necessary to meet remotely. Meeting adjourned at 10:455 AM.

CorridorRides Transit Capital Replacement Status Report						
Status Report Based on Statewide PTMS Rankings						
Prepared March 2022						
Vehicle	Vehicle Type	Provider	Status/priority for FY20	PTMS Points		
306B	Minivan	Benton	Ordered (409)	45.46		
308	158"	Benton	Ready to Order	29.15	(No ECICOG Local Match)	
258	Medium Duty	LIFTS	Ordered (353)	64.97		
259	Medium Duty	LIFTS	Ordered (354)	71.86		
260	Medium Duty	LIFTS	Ready to Order	42.88		
263	176	LIFTS	Ready to Order	16.94		
47L	176 BEB	LIFTS	Ready to Order		*State No-Lo grant	
390	176"	Minibus	Ordered (496)	40.87		
480	158"	Minibus	Ordered (495)	30.65		
387	158"	Minibus	Ready to Order	57.35		
481	Minivan	Minibus	Ordered (494)	43.57		
390	176"	Minibus	Ready to Order	35.22		
485	Minivan	Minibus	Ready to Order	24.56	(No ECICOG Local Match)	
482	158	Minibus	Ready to Order	18.18	(No ECICOG Local Match)	
309	138	Benton	Order FY22?	10.68		
400	138	Benton	Order FY22?	10.25		
218	Minivan	Iowa	Order FY22?	12.22		
246	158"	JETS	Order FY22?	70.05		
45L (262)	Medium Duty	LIFTS	Order FY22?	67.30		
484	138	Minibus	Order FY22?	13.90		
483	158	Minibus	Order FY22?	12.93		
401	138	Benton	Order FY23			
219	Minivan	Iowa	Order FY23			
310	Minivan	Iowa	Order FY23			
331	176	SEATS	Order FY23			
332	176	SEATS	Order FY23			
341	158	JETS	Order FY23			
342	138	JETS	Order FY23			
343	138	JETS	Order FY23			
344	138	JETS	Order FY23			
483	158	Minibus	Order FY23			
484	138	Minibus	Order FY23			
486	138	Minibus	Order FY23			
487	138	Minibus	Order FY23			