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Polk County Transportation Advisory Group

January 16th, 2019 – 1pm

Des Moines Area MPO – Burnham Conference Room

“To bring human service agencies and transportation providers together for the common objective of improving mobility options for individuals in need.”

AGENDA:

1) INTRODUCTIONS

2) ACTIVITY: Mission statement and vision activity

- a. **Potential Mission Statement:** Partnering with regional agencies to (connect) improve central Iowa with safe, accessible, reliable, and cost efficient (or effective – provider v provider) transportation.
- b. **PTP Review:** [Final document available here.](#)
- c. **Vision Activity:** What priorities for 2019 should the TAG have?
 - i. **Johnston Route** – connect the dart stop to goodwill
 - ii. **Volunteer driver training** – DART to Goodwill in Johnston
 - iii. **Goodwill would like to be a DOT licensing and training site** – proctors already on site at goodwill, so just add this to the list of proctored services
 - iv. **DART train the trainer** – assisted living centers,
 - v. **Access to food and grocery** – developing safe walk routes (similar to schools) that also potentially has grocery carts to and from the store.
 - vi. **LOSST** – this is an area where the LOSST could be spent.
 - vii. **City of DSM is updating school walk maps.** DM Public Library has a reference number where you can call in and ask them to research something that takes less than five minutes – put the 211 resource on their radar.

- viii. **Education before employers select their new sites.** This is often a larger issue, but prevention of bad decisions on land use before they ask for a DART route extension. Marlou at BARCA – bi-lingual coordinator
- ix. Reach to employment companies to direct large quantities of VA clients to promote second change employments. Those with a car can do it, but this is not available for all. DZ got a route extension and that has worked wonders.
- x. **People who used to use paratransit are no longer using it because of the need for advanced notice to cabs, which has a whole slew of problems as well.** Because of this more people aren't leaving the house more. DART accepts calls until 5pm the day before, but if you do call that late your stop is last on the list and so your trip could be 3.5 hours due to all the other stops that are necessary. DART is looking into on-demand paratransit options.
- xi. **Cost is always an issue.** This affects people who don't live on a fixed route more.
- xii. **Uber business accounts get tricky.**
- xiii. **Start a policy makers take public transit day.**
- xiv. **Transportation to places of worship.** Is this information on 211?
- xv. **Have a TAG feedback place to share barriers straight away.**
- xvi. Children that don't have the right shoes can't walk to school even if the sidewalks are good.
- xvii. Work with 211 to show what transportation programs have costs, which are free, which are subsidized, etc. – incorporate a submenu to select by payment options.
- xviii. NEMT transportation calls – providers the MCO's are lining up are unreliable, so look at how this disconnect can be corrected. Many of the groups that are contracted have no oversight and they're transporting extremely vulnerable populations. Identifiers on the vehicles which can deter people from getting in. Phone lines are jammed with calls.

3) REPORT: Mobility Managers Update – Catlin Curry (DART)

- a. **Services changes 3x per year.** January service changes went into effect January 13, 2019. Most of the changes were to make time points more reliable and therefore, help to make the buses run more on time.
- b. **Route 6** was increased to 20-minute frequency wasn't running on time, so they moved it back to 30-minute frequency so that it would be on time. This helps to lessen the domino effect of one late bus/route.
- c. **Route 15** no longer does the double loop around Park Fair Mall, this just reduced redundancy and is hoped to keep the routes on time.
- d. **Route 4** extension (14th to Grandview and Park Fair) to DZ manufacturing last fall is now being extended to Hy-Vee's commissary plant at the times the route goes

to DZ. Hy-Vee Commissary is now part of DARTs unlimited access plan, like DZ. This is not for all Hy-Vee employees, solely the commissary employees for now.

- e. **DART is evaluating how they are serving the western suburbs and Ankeny.** [This survey is available here](#). Please share this with your clients/customers.
 - f. **DOT & DART are working with AARP to provide transit to members in their base here and in Cedar Rapids.** Potential pilot program will come back to the group as it fleshes out. This could be combined with the DOT's evaluation of ADA accessibility and this could be enveloped into this work.
- 4) REPORT: MPO Update – Allison van Pelt**
- a. Long-Range Transportation Plan Update – Allison Riley (MPO)
 - i. *Environmental Justice Report:* [Final document can be found here](#).
 - ii. *LRTP Project review & comments*
- 5) DISCUSSION: TAG Member Updates**
- a. **Iowa DD council added transportation to their portfolio, so they are open to adding support for public transit legislation.**
 - b. Iowa Workforce – the shutdown has impacted people is there a short term options that DART could provide relief to people who are struggling. 50% of DOT funds come from the federal government, DOT is looking at their options if this shut down lasts into future months – how can services last without federal funds?
- 6) WRAP UP/FINAL DISCUSSION**

Next Meeting: Tentatively, April 17th, 2019 – 1pm @ DMAMPO