
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

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2018 PASSENGER TRANSPORTATION SUMMIT

Ankeny. The Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Iowa Public Transit Association hosted the fifth annual Passenger Transportation Summit in Ankeny on May 24, 2018. The goal of the yearly conference is to bring together passenger transportation users, providers, and policymakers to discuss public transportation trends and needs in Iowa.

Innovations in Rural Public Transit. After opening remarks, the summit featured a panel discussion by representatives from three different rural transit agencies on innovations in rural transit and the successes and failures of rural transit agencies in trying new ideas, routes, and uses of federal and State moneys.

Hugh Lively from Northwest Iowa Regional Transit Authority (RIDES) talked about the successes in after-hour transit for sheltered workshops. Randy Zobrist from River Bend Transit described the difficulties in establishing a new shuttle service between Davenport and Iowa City, and Sam Castro and Curt McNew from Northeast Iowa Community Action Corporation (EARL) Public Transit presented highlights on their use of social media and events to increase awareness and ridership.

Elected Officials' Perspective. Elected officials from three different Iowa communities answered submitted questions on local authorities' perspective of public transit systems in their regions. The elected officials included: Mayor Dave Jones from Atlantic, Councilman Rob Green from the Cedar Falls City Council, and Supervisor Mike Steines from the Jackson County Board of Supervisors.

Keynote Address. Judy Shanley, the codirector for the [National Center for Mobility Management](#) (NCMM), gave the keynote address, entitled "What's So Great About Coordination?" The speech focused on examples of states that have leveraged public and private funding with public and private social capital. The five reasons given for agencies to foster coordination included:

- Identifying new funding sources.
- Opportunities for service innovation.
- Improving efficiencies.
- Leveraging knowledge.
- Aligning with federal efforts.

Strategies to Implement a Statewide Coordinating Council. Kristin Haar of the DOT presented on the upcoming report, "Strategies to Implement a Statewide Coordination Council." The DOT received a grant from Easter Seals, as a partner with the NCMM, to examine coordination efforts in Iowa. Members of the [Iowa Transportation Coordination Council](#) (ITCC) met in March 2018 to develop objectives and strategies using the federal [Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility](#) (CCAM) goals, which include:

- Improving access to the community through transportation.
- Enhancing cost-effectiveness of coordinated transportation.
- Strengthening interagency partnerships and collaboration with state, local, and industry groups.

More Information. The next Passenger Transportation Summit has not been scheduled.

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