

* Iowa's Coordination Journey

Kansas Public Transit Association
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* Background - Regional Systems

- * Region XII Council of Governments
 - * 6 county planning agency
 - * Formed through 28E agreement with 6 member counties.
- * 1 of 16 Regional Planning Regions established by the Iowa legislature in the late 1960's.
- * In the 1970s, the Iowa legislature designated the 16 planning regions to be the recipients of any public transit funding controlled by the state.
- * Each of the planning regions could choose how to handle the funding.

* Regional Systems in Iowa Today

- * 10 regional transit programs are administered by a Council of Governments.
 - * 8 operate as either direct service or a combination of direct and brokered system.
 - * 1 operates as a brokered system.
 - * Region 4 in Sioux City, operates as a non-profit under the administration of the Council of Governments.
- * 1 system is administered by an Area on Aging
- * 1 system is administered by a Community Action Program
- * 4 systems operate as stand-alone, non-profit agencies

* State of Iowa Public Transit Coordination

* Early Efforts, 1976

* Iowa Code Chapter 601J

* Required any agency using public money to fund transportation for their clients to be certified to provide transportation with the designated public transit agency.

* Providers could be compliant, non-compliant, or compliant with waiver. All granted through the Air and Public Transit Division of the Iowa Department of Transportation



* Program was designed to help reduce duplication of costs, including vehicles and maintenance.

* It was also designed to cut the miles being driven and thereby increase safety.

* Most of the County Boards that were providing funding for transportation eventually got on board with this program because of the savings in capital costs.

* Individual Counties no longer had to purchase a van for the seniors and a couple for the sheltered workshop and maybe even one for Head Start, because the same vehicle could now provide service to all of these programs.

* Many exemptions such as correctional facilities, emergency transportation, public schools, and mental health institutes.

* 601J was moderately successful

* Other agencies started to think about the services they offer

* Develop a thought process as to how they could use their funds to provide more service.



- * Later Efforts, 1990 to 2000
- * Iowa Code Chapter 324A
- * 1990's saw a slight change in how coordination in Iowa was viewed.
- * Iowa Code Chapter 601J evolved into Iowa Code Chapter 324A.
- * Iowa Code Chapter 324A became the guiding factor in our coordination efforts from that point on.



- * In 1992, the Iowa Transportation Coordination Council (ITCC) was formed.
- * Original members were Iowa Department of Transportation, Iowa Department of Elder Affairs, and the Iowa Department of Human Services.
- * This required that we gather a lot of data about our communities and we learned that successful coordination cannot be done without communication.
- * In order to allow more agencies and programs to enlist in the coordination several counties formed CPC's or Central Point of Contact (Coordination) to help direct the flow of service from the various agencies that received public funds as part of their program.

* Current Efforts, 2001 - Present

- * In 2001, the ITCC was expanded to include the Iowa Department of Health, Iowa Governor's Disability Council, Iowa Public Transit Association, Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, CTA (United We Ride Ambassador, Margi Ness), Iowa Department of Transportation Systems Planning, and Iowa Department of Human Services Iowa Medicaid Enterprise.
- * The United We Ride Program, created in 2005, has done a lot to make us aware of the opportunities to coordinate our transportation services. The Planning Workshops we held in our areas helped bring us together and discuss some of the transportation needs on a local basis. It also provided an opportunity to brainstorm ideas to help solve scheduling and funding concerns.
- * In 2010, the Iowa Department of Human Services contracted with TMS of Clearwater, Florida, to provide a statewide brokerage for Medicaid transportation in Iowa. TMS coordinates all Medicaid transportation in Iowa and utilizes all transportation services present in a service area.

* Transit Coordination Examples

- * Region 1, North East Regional Transit System, Decorah, Iowa
 - * private non-profit agency
 - * operates coordinated public transit services with taxi companies, churches, and Head Start
 - * Early Childhood Development Centers
- * Many 20 years old partnerships.
- * Services were highlighted in TCRP Report #54.



- * Region XII COG, Western Iowa Transit System (WITS)
- * WITS offers much of the same services offered by Region 1, school, taxis, and Head Start. WITS also works closely with work activity centers and Job Corps of Denison, Iowa. WITS was featured as a High performance system in the TCRP "User's Manual for Assessing Service Delivery Systems for Rural Passenger Transportation" published in 1995.
- * WITS works with virtually all agencies in the 6 county region. The one exception to that has been the Veterans Administration until recently. The VA has opened an out-patient clinic in our community. Many older veterans need mobility aids and transportation to get to appointments. The VA now calls on us to help out.



* Information

1. FTA has an old but excellent tape "Transportation Coordination: Making it Work for you"
2. Iowa Transportation Coordinating Council, <http://www.iowadot.gov/transit/itcc/index.html>.
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