



Mobility Matters

Keeping Central Iowa Informed about Passenger Transportation Issues

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IOWA 2-1-1 UPDATE

Iowa 2-1-1, the telephone referral service, reports that referrals for transportation services in the 12 months ending in April 2010 were down 8.4 percent from the 12 months ending in April 2009.

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Volunteer transportation — a solution?

Michael Audino of the University of South Florida discusses the prospect of volunteer transportation with the Transportation Advisory Group of the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

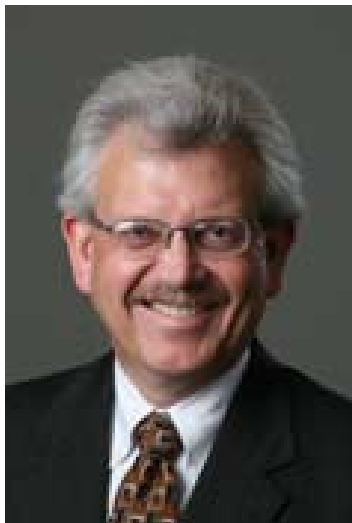
Volunteer transportation could be a part of the solution to Central Iowa’s mobility needs, though it’s not a silver bullet to solve all transportation problems.

That was the message of Michael Audino, a transportation researcher with the University of South Florida.

“We cannot print enough money, or buy enough buses and vans, to meet all of the area’s mobility needs,” he said.

Audino was the featured speaker at the Volunteer Transportation Summit for Central Iowa that was hosted May 18 by the Transportation Advisory Group of the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization. Approximately 35 people from Polk, Boone, and Story Counties attended the event to learn more about volunteer transportation programs.

Audino is an Iowa native who previously worked for the Iowa Department of Transportation, the South-



Michael Audino

west Iowa Planning Council in Atlantic, and the Des Moines International Airport.

Audino said the government cannot and should not be responsible to take care of everything, which provides opportunities for volunteer transportation services. He said the key is being pro-active.

The advisory group discussed organizations within the community that might be available to work on volunteer transportation programs. Some participants suggested starting a dia-

logue with their neighborhood associations. The Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute and the United Way were among other organizations identified.

Audino provided examples of volunteer transportation services from around the country and addressed concerns participants raised about issues such as liability and funding for volunteer services. Audino described liability as a “red herring... a non-issue issue,” citing a Beverly Foundation study of more than 500 volunteer transportation programs operating in the United States. In response to funding concerns, Audino, as well as other volunteer providers in attendance, noted that community-based organizations and philanthropic organizations oftentimes provide transportation funding.

The advisory group will further discuss the topic at its upcoming meetings.



News about public
transit in Ames

CyRide adds route to Aquatic Center

Riders can leave the car at home and catch the bus to the Donald and Ruth Furman Aquatic Center in Ames now that CyRide launched the new #8 Aqua Route.

The route started service on Saturday, May 29. It was designed to connect up at two major transfer locations — Ames City Hall and

Iowa State University's State Gym — and take passengers to the aquatic center. The bus leaves each locations every hour between approximately 12:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. Monday through Sunday.

Now swimmers don't have to worry about finding parking at the Aquatic Center for that first splash. They can

ride CyRide from home, or park for free at City Hall and catch the bus there.

To download a brochure of the new route and learn more about the Aquatic Center hours/admission rates, go online to <http://www.cyride.com/routes/Summer/AquaBrochure.pdf>

FTA OK's the Ames Intermodal Facility

It's official: The feds gave CyRide the formal go-ahead to build the \$8.5 million Ames Intermodal Facility.

The Federal Transit Administration signed a memorandum of understanding on May 17 approving of CyRide's redesigned project explanation, a move required by the U.S. Department of Transporta-

tion. The Ames Intermodal Facility will provide the following elements:

- Intercity-regional carrier terminal (1,000 square feet) and two bus bays.
- 399 parking spaces, including 20 for car- and van-pool users.
- Taxi Stand/Cut Out
- Public restrooms and showers

• Office to support activities and management

- Pocket park.
- Bicycle path and 12 bicycle lockers

The revised project explanation can be viewed online at http://www.cyride.com/planning_policies/Intermodal.html.

Intercity buses move to Memorial Union

The Jefferson Lines and Burlington Trailways can now be accessed in Ames at Iowa State University's Memorial Union.

These intercity buses operate throughout Iowa and across the nation. A map of the intercity routes in Iowa can

be found [here](#). For detailed information regarding services from the Memorial Union and ticketing information, click [here](#).

This makes the third location in a year for these providers after leaving the original depot in east Ames and

the Mortensen and South Dakota intersection in west Ames. The carriers will have a fourth and final home at the Ames Intermodal Transportation facility once completed in June 2012.

DART to adjust service in June

Federal grant money will help DART pay for expanded morning service between downtown and West Des Moines businesses including Wells Fargo and Aviva

The Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority will make multiple adjustments to bus service starting June 13. The changes include:



Route 1 — An additional evening peak trip will be added. It will leave Walnut and Seventh Streets at 5:25 p.m. and head to East 42nd Street and Northeast Hubbell Avenue. This change is made in response to riders' demand for more service to East 42nd and Hubbell after service cuts to that area in April.

Route 11 — Changes to Route 11 will better accommodate the employees of west-side businesses such as Wells Fargo and Aviva.

In the morning, DART buses will pull in front of Wells Fargo and Aviva before heading to the Jordan Creek Town Center. The route alters slightly in the afternoon, going

to Jordan Creek first and then to the businesses before heading downtown.

Buses will begin servicing the Jordan Creek area earlier in the day, as well. Buses will begin leaving Jordan Creek for downtown at 6:51 a.m. and 7:25 a.m. The bus leaving downtown at 6:20 a.m. will continue on beyond Valley Junction, reaching Jordan Creek 20 minutes earlier than previously available.

The additional service is possible because of federal grant money that is administered by the Iowa Department of Transportation.

Route 3 — The Roosevelt High School loop will be eliminated for the summer beginning Monday, June 14.

New schedules will be available online at www.ridedart.com/whatsnew.asp. For more information, call 515.283-8100.

Riders wanted for DART advisory board



DART needs you.

The Transit Riders Advisory Committee, or TRAC, is down three members — and needs riders to fill the vacancies.

The committee advises staff and the DART Commission on service improvements and other needs and concerns.

Send an email to dart@ridedart.com for an application. The deadline to apply is June 18.

Participate in Monthly Transportation Advisory Group Meetings

The June meeting of the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's Transportation Advisory Group (TAG) has been canceled.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, July 20, at the Des Moines Area MPO office, 6200 Aurora Ave., Suite 300W, Urbandale.

All are welcome to attend.

The TAG consists of transportation providers, human service agencies and other interested individuals and organizations that work to improve passenger transportation service in central Iowa, particularly those for transportation disadvantaged populations.

For more information call Dylan Mullenix at 515-334-0075 or email him at dmullenix@dmampo.org.