

NE Regional Coordination Meeting Minutes

	Overnight
	Regular Mail
	Hand Delivery
X	Email

Meeting Location: Norfolk, Nebraska
Date and Time: August 8, 2019, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.
Attendees: See attached Sign-In Sheet

1. Welcome / Introductions
2. NDOT Mobility Management Project
 - a. Project began over seven years ago. Phase 1 and Phase 2 have been completed.
 - b. Phase 3 identified eight priority projects, one being the Northeast Regional Coordination project.
3. Overview of Study
 - a. Where do we currently have transit service?
 - Mike Holton (Plainview) – provides service within a 30-mile radius of Plainview
 - Curt Miller (Simpco) – provides services for 5 counties in Iowa and Union County in South Dakota. Sioux City paratransit service
 - Bonnie Buchanan (Jefferson Lines) – provides intercity bus service to Sioux City and Omaha
 - Rojene Welding (O’Neill) – provides services within a 75-mile radius, includes Sioux Falls, Yankton and Omaha if needed
 - Sheila B. and Joanne Fischer (Knox County) – do not provide service but are looking for transit information for their area
 - Jeanne Doerneman (Norfolk) – provides service 30 to 40 miles outside of Norfolk including Wayne, Madison and Pierce
 - Nikki Pinkelman (Cedar County) – provides service up to 200 miles, but service must originate in Cedar County
 - Janice Johnson (Express Arrow) – provides service from Norfolk to Omaha. Arrow Bus stops in Columbus and Fremont. Flag stops in advance in other areas
 - Dave Mentzer (Winnebago) – provides service including Sioux City and Omaha. They are very flexible and wants to expand service
 - Talia Villalpando (Ponca) – provides service within a 300 miles radius, includes Norfolk, Niobrara Omaha, Sioux City and Lincoln
 - Doug Moore (Columbus Area) – City of Columbus City limits
 - b. NDOT receives several calls for service in the Northeast Region.

- c. NDOT is funding 100% of the study.
 - d. How do we get the word out to people/stakeholders? How do we get riders involved?
4. Schedule
 - a. Kickoff – July August 2019 – Final Deliverables April – June 2020.
5. Coordination/Mobility Management
 - a. Primary reasons to coordinate:
 - Provide effective and efficient service to the Northeast Regional communities
 - Avoid duplicate routes in services
 - Cost sharing
 - Increase ridership
 - b. Federal funding regulations mandate coordination.
 - c. Types of coordination?
 - Depends on partnering agencies
 - Need to look at other sources
 - Time and communication of all
 - Phase 2 identified areas of coordination between Ponca Express and Avera, Ponca Express and Norfolk Public Transit
 - Increase marketing
 - d. What are the transit needs?
 - Tyson with Dakota City
 - City of Columbus and Polk County
 - Northeast has had a high demand of calls
 - Norfolk Flexroute
 - e. Where are we today?
 - 15 transit providers/resources. See Item 3 list of providers
 - Intercity public service – Express Arrow and Jefferson Lines
 - New Mobility Management position, Bill Bivin
6. Community Outreach
 - a. Stakeholders include elected officials, employers, transit providers, human service agencies, educational institutions and community organizations.
 - b. How do we get word out? Radio? Social media? School websites? Newspaper, word of mouth, poster, new wraps on vehicles, do public transit week promotions.
 - c. Doug (Columbus) – Stated 90% of service is for seniors. They work with the community center, united way agency, and by word of mouth.
 - d. Steve (Norfolk) – Norfolk is looking to re-brand their transit services. Looking to increase the visibility of their vehicles on the street. Radio advertisement.
 - e. Dave (Winnebago) – They currently have one driver whose entire route is just transporting employees to Tyson for all of their shifts.

7. How can we help your agencies?

- a. Dave – Would like help to develop and expand their service. Currently has 40,000 riders a year.
- b. Steve – Need to update their website presence instead of their current “aged” webpage. Would like help with their website and maps of service agencies. The University is on our team and can help with any agencies’ website.
- c. George (NDOT) – Agencies need to attend quarterly regional meetings, have data available for these meetings.
- d. Bill Bivins – Would like to develop communications with each agency and find out about their specific location needs.
- e. How do we determine rates for specific routes?
 - Fares are a local service decision.
 - How do you make them equitable? No right or wrong answer.
 - Nikki – need to keep rates as low as possible. Need to keep rates as reasonable as possible for senior, and those with medical cost and budgets. Aids can ride along for free.
 - Flat rates work the best.
- f. Avera Creighton has a very specific rate schedule. They charge \$0.50 a mile and use Medicaid matches.
- g. Ponca Express is a public service. A rider does not need to be a tribal member. Ponca is willing to work with other agencies and expand services for the area.
- h. Winnebago does not currently charge a fee as the Casino pays for fares and matches. There have been questions regarding crossing state lines with Iowa.
- i. Knox County is looking to work with Cedar County. Knox County has also contacted Ponca Express.
- j. Cedar County has doubled its service since 2015. They have changed their perception of the service being a “handibus”. They mainly use word of mouth to expand their system. They have a dedicated dispatch and are looking to build a transit facility.
- k. Bill will set up meeting with Cedar, Knox and Ponca Express to coordinate rides/riders.
- l. How do we make service more accessible to riders? Example... Schedule a Dr. appt for Friday, but ride service currently has to be scheduled three weeks out?
- m. Need to create a directory. NDOT has problems keeping all providers updated.

8. Winnebago will host December meeting.

**August 8, 2019
Kick-off Meeting**

Norfolk, NE

**OA Project No. (019-1932)
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Name	Company Representing	Email Address	Phone
1 Jeanne Doerneman	Norfolk Public Transportation	director@npttrans.org	379-4595 (402)
2 Nikki Pinkelman	Cedar County Transit	cedarcotransit@charter.net	402-640- 6147
3 Janice Johnson	Express Arrow	janice@expressarrow.com	402-379- 6959
4 David Mentzer	Winnebago Tribal Transit	david.mentzer@winnebago-tribe.com	402-878 4225
5 Talia Villalpando	Ponca Express	tvillalpando@ponca-tribe-ne.org	379-2361
6 Dani Wright	Ponca Express	dannettew@ponca-tribe-ne.org	379-2361
7 Doug Moore	Columbus Area Tran.	dmoore@columbusne.us	402-562-4240
8 Steven Rames	Norfolk Public Transit	srames@ci.norfolk.ne.us	402-844-2020
9 Bill Bowen	University	williambowen@nebraska-transit.com	402-570-0491

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Name	Company Representing	Email Address	Phone
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2 Kari Ruse	NDOT	Kari.ruse@nebraska.gov	402 4794694
3 Lucinda Bugbee	Olsson	lbugbee@olsson.com	(402) 458-5031
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