

## Meeting Minutes

### Jackson Transit Action Group (TAG)

**Date:** Thursday, March 6, 2025

**Time:** 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**Place:** ECIA Zoom Meeting

#### TAG Members' Present:

☒ **Ronelle Clark (Chair)**

*Outreach Coord., HACAP  
(proxy Name)*

☐ **Angela Martensen (VC)**

*Comm. Integration Supv., ITP  
(Carolyn Schaefer\*\*) (Danielle Kopf\*\*)*

☐ **Chris Fee**

*Superintendent, Easton Valley  
CSD/Mayor of Andre  
(proxy Name)*

☐ **Kelly Brown**

*JCEA.*

☐ **Deb Courter**

*Case Mngr, Dpt. Human Services  
(proxy Name)*

☐ **Lynn Bopes**

*Coord. DS, EI MHDS Region  
(Proxy Name)*

☐ **Michelle Huseman**

*Housing Specialist, EIRHA  
(Caitlin Siemionko\*\*)*

☒ **Don Schwenker**

*RTA Board Member,  
Jackson County Board of  
Supervisors  
(proxy Name)*

☐ **Sally Davies**

*Comm. Relations Coord.,  
Clover Ridge Place  
(proxy Name)*

☐ **Ted Strait**

*Manager, Maquoketa Farmers  
Market/Gen Pub  
(proxy Name)*

☐ **Tom Meyer**

*Superintendent, Bellevue CSD  
(proxy Name)*

☐ **Chris Hoover**

*Superintendent,  
Maquoketa CSD  
(proxy Name)*

☐ **Name (Vacant)**

*Dialysis, Grand River Medical  
(proxy Name)*

☐ **Jean Hayes\*\***

*Chief Nursing Officer, Jackson  
County Regional Health Center  
(Pam Schoenthaler\*\*)*

☐ **Name (Vacant)**

*Case Manager, MCO  
(proxy Name)*

#### Others Present:

##### Staff Present:

☐ **Chandra Ravada**

☒ **Dan Fox**

☒ **Stacie Scott**

☒ **Gail Kuhle**

☒ **Jack Studier**

\*Non-Voting Member

\*\*Voting member by Proxy

\*\*\*Attendance by phone

## **Call to Order**

The Jackson County TAG meeting was called to order by Ronelle Clark at 11:02 am. Introductions were made at this time.

## **Upcoming Meeting Dates and Times**

Clark explained that historically the TAG meetings are held virtually once every quarter on the first Tuesday of the month of March, June, September and December from 11-1 pm. Everyone agreed to continue with zoom meetings with the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month, however discussion followed regarding changing the start time of the Jackson County Tag meetings. It was suggested to send an email survey to all members to see if they would consider changing the start time to 9 am rather than 11 am. Kuhle noted that she would send an email to all members.

Clark pointed out the following meeting dates and times:

Tuesday, June 5, 2025                      TBD

Tuesday, September 4, 2025              TBD

December Annual meeting                TBD

## **Appointment of Board Chair and Vice Chair**

Kuhle noted the current Chair is Ronelle Clark, the Vice-Chair is Angela Martensen

Clark indicated that she would stay in the position, however if some else would like to volunteer she would be willing to step aside. There were no other volunteers at this time.

## **Agency Updates**

### **Jackson County Economic Alliance (JCEA)-Van Pool**

Schwenker explained that the RTA staff is working with JCEA to identify employers who would be interested in doing a ride share or van pool. The van pool or ride share would provide a van for potential employees who may have transportation barriers to utilize to get to and from their job.

### **HACAP**

Clark stated that HACAP is helping individuals complete the rent reimbursement, property tax credit forms for low-income families and energy assistance programs. Clark noted that HACAP is also looking for children aged 3 and old for the Head Start program.

## **RTA updates**

### **Van Pool**

Fox explained that the RTA is currently working on the Van Pool program and noted the RTA currently has one van pool client and is looking for more employers to participate. He noted the van pool provides additional options for employers to provide a means of transportation for their employees.

### **New Services**

Kuhle explained the RTA is working on three new projects this year which include expanding trips for seniors for social outings, providing medical rides to local and long-distance facilities for those who don't have other funding sources, and working with agencies throughout the communities to provide trips for social events for their clients.

## **Passenger Transportation Plan (PTP)**

Jack Studier (ECIA Planner I) gave a brief update of the PTP, noting that staff submitted the first draft to the IADOT on February 1, 2025, and are waiting for comments. Final plan is due on May 1, 2025.

Studier continued the discussion by reviewing the results of the PTP work session from the All-County Tag meeting held in December 2024. He presented the following five goals and discussed the objectives for each goal:

1. Provide more flexible transit options
  - Expand vanpool services.
  - On-demand service for evening and weekend transit.
2. Increase awareness of public transit options
  - Increase social media presence.
  - Volunteer and/or sponsor community events.
  - Designate transit ambassadors within region.
3. Expand access to rural communities
  - Identify local volunteer organizations to help provide rides.
  - Perform analyses to determine which areas need more frequent services.
  - Develop initiatives to bring in new drivers to increase services.
4. Make services more accessible
  - Develop bus buddy system to make service less intimidating
  - Utilize different strategies to send reminders.
  - Work with medical providers to coordinate rides for appointments.
5. Ensure that services have access to up-to-date, quality vehicles.
  - Develop a system for inventory management.
  - Pursue multiple, differing funding strategies.

Clark asked if the follow up information could be presented to the members.

Discussion followed.

### **Grant Updates**

#### **United Way**

Studier updated the board noting that staff have submitted their mid-year renewal to United Way and are expecting to hear in April if funds have been awarded.

#### **Other Grant updates**

Studier noted that staff continues to look for other grant opportunities.

#### **Farmer's Market**

Kuhle noted the RTA didn't receive any funding for the Farmer's Market route, however the RTA is committed to providing the Tuesday night service for the Farmer's Market and will find a way to make it happen.

### **Summer Transportation needs**

Kuhle noted that summer is approaching, and the RTA is looking for groups or organizations that might need transportation service throughout the community. She indicated that the RTA will be working with the Scared Heart Daycare again to provide summer rides.

Clark was suggested to speak with Stepahanie Saeger with the Maquoketa Art Experience to explore if there are any opportunities to provide transportation for the summer programs.

Discussion followed.

### **Adjournment**

Clark adjourned the meeting at 11:20 am.