

IOWA NORTHLAND REGIONAL TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, July 15, 2026,

MINUTES

Fratzke opened the meeting of the Iowa Northland Regional Transit Advisory Committee (TAC) at 10:00 a.m. Following that, attendees introduced themselves.

Meeting Attendees:

Name	Title	Representing
Aaron Reinke*	Epidemiologist	Black Hawk County Public Health
Rachel Mayer*	Epidemiologist	Black Hawk County Public Health
Emily Camargo	Operational Threshold	Waterloo Homeless Taskforce
Angie Gilles*	Director of Comm. Impact & Engagement	United Way
Debbie Roth*	President	Cedar Valley United Way
David Sturch	General Manager	MET Transit
Mindy Benson*	Coordinator	BHCHMA
Shannon Bass*	Director of Programs	Northeast Iowa Food Bank
Kristin Schaefer*	Director of Business	Unity Point
Megan Mckenzy*	Executive Director	McElroy Trust
Terrance Hollingsworth	Youth Advocate	BHC
Martin Wissenberg*	Executive Director	Rider's Club of America
Nick Fratzke	Transportation Director	INRCOG/RTC
Sanzida Rahmatu Setu	Transportation Planner II	INRCOG
Oghogho Oriakhi	Transportation Planner I	INRCOG

**Attended Online*

B. Actionable items

The first item was approval of the agenda. It was moved by David, seconded by Martin, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Next on the agenda was the review and approval of the minutes of the April 15, 2026, meeting. It was moved by David, seconded by Martin, to approve the minutes as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Discussion Items

1. NADO National Award – INRCOG receives 2026 Excellence in Regional Transportation Award for its FY 2026-2030 Passengers Transportation Plan (PTP)

Fratzke mentioned that the FY 2026–2030 Passenger Transportation Plan (PTP) received the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Excellence in Regional Transportation Award, recognizing the plan for its outstanding contribution to regional transportation planning. Acknowledgement was extended to all Transit Advisory committee (TAC) members who contributed to the plan's development, and Oriakhi for leading the development of the plan, and to Fratzke for their leadership and guidance throughout the planning process.

2. FY2026-2030 Passenger Transportation Plan (PTP) Priorities and Strategies Update

Oriakhi provided an update on the implementation of the 2026–2030 Passenger Transportation Plan (PTP), highlighting progress on the priorities and initiatives, including how to ride signage, micromobility integration, Free ride transit out event, driver workforce development etc.

a. How to Ride Signage – AARP Grant

Sturch provided an update on the How-to-Ride Signage project, noting that although the national AARP grant was not awarded, the AARP Iowa State Office has expressed interest in funding the project. Sign designs have been completed, and installation is expected in the coming months. The signs will provide riders with essential transit information and access to real-time bus information through QR codes

b. Micromobility Integration – Task force Update

Sturch provided an update on the proposed **Microtransit Pilot Program**, which would complement MET Transit's fixed-route network by offering on-demand, first-mile/last-mile service within two proposed service zones in Waterloo and Cedar Falls. Fratzke added that the project is currently in the planning and needs assessment phase, with staff developing service concepts, identifying funding opportunities, and preparing for a three-year pilot.

c. Continue to Explore Efficiencies in Transit Routes

Fratzke provided an update on efforts to improve transit route efficiency through the continued use of scheduling software. Noting that both MET Transit and Onboard Public Transit regularly review routing data and system inputs to optimize scheduling and service delivery, while noting that ongoing refinements and operational factors, such as driver availability, influence overall efficiency.

d. Free Ride Try Transit Out Event

Setu provided an update on the proposed Fare-Free Transit Event, noting that planning is underway to implement the initiative later this year. Staff will support planning, marketing, and performance evaluation, while MET Transit will lead implementation and public outreach.

3. Onboard Public Transit Rate Increase

Fratzke provided an update on OnBoard Public Transit, noting that staff are evaluating fare adjustments to address rising operating costs and budget deficits following the pandemic. Public outreach meetings are planned in the rural service area to gather input on the proposed fare changes before implementation.

4. 2055 MPO Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update

a. Group Discussion on Regional Transportation (LRTP)

Setu provided an update on the 2055 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and Public Participation Plan (PPP), noting that the update process has begun. Staff initiated the first stakeholder engagement discussion to gather feedback on the current plan's goals, identify emerging transportation needs and challenges, and solicit recommendations for inclusion in the next LRTP. Staff will distribute discussion materials and continue stakeholder engagement at future TAC meetings

5. General Discussion

There being no further discussion, Fratzke called for a motion to adjourn. Martin moved the motion, seconded by David. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

Sincerely

Oghogho Oriakhi
MPO Staff