

**SOUTHWEST IOWA PLANNING COUNCIL**  
**Transportation Advisory Group (TAG) Meeting**

April 2, 2026, 11:00 a.m.

SWIPCO Conference Room and via Zoom

**MINUTES**

1. **Call to Order.** Chris Parks called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m.
2. **Roll Call.** Danelle Bruce, WIS Collaborative / Disability Access Point; Brittany Hauptert, Grant Coordinator, Zion; Rachel Goettsch, MAPA Transportation Planner; Ingrid Stukerjurgan, Volunteer Iowa RSVP Coordinator; Jan Schnack, RSVP Coordinator; Tammy DeBord, SWIPCO Planner/RPA-13 Coordinator; Chirs Parks, SWIPCO Communications Coordinator; Mark Lander, SWITA Transit Director.
3. **RPA 13/18 Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Project Progress Update.** Goettsch gave a recap of work that has been done so far gathering input and developing a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP) for the 7 cities that were focused on in the SS4A study. They are finishing a draft of the plan and will have a final STAG meeting on April 14, 2026. They will finalize the plan in May and then work on finding funding for projects that were identified. Community profiles will be completed for each town. Parks asked about input gathering and Goettsch said it was really valuable to hear from EMS personnel and understand their challenges (access to whole blood, ways to move patients around). DeBord said the community event info gathering was also valuable in getting more feedback. A lot of issues brought up were proper crosswalks, electric scooters, accessible non-motor routes. Goettsch said there was a lot of concern about school routes, and they will recommend safe routes to school studies be done in each town.
4. **Workforce Transportation and Vanpools Update.** Parks talked about SWITA's workforce transportation. SWITA has provided 63,747 workforce rides this fiscal year; 62,337 of those were for the general public and 1,410 were for disabled riders. 248,058 miles have been traveled in 9,013,50 hours of service. Demand continues to be strong, and some other businesses have shown interest in workroutes due to rising gas prices. Enterprise Vanpools have also grown with 8+ now operating for Google in Council Bluffs. Bruce asked about vanpool logistics and costs. Parks described that each route has a lead driver and then others are picked up at their homes or if arranged a meeting point. Costs can vary depending on mileage and employer contribution. Lander said Google covers costs for their vanpools.
5. **Medical Transportation Partnerships.** Parks opened the floor to Lander to talk about medical transportation partnerships that have developed between SWITA and Montgomery County Memorial Hospital in Red Oak and Methodist Jennie Ed and CHI Mercy in Council Bluffs. These partnerships allow physician clinics and offices in these facilities to identify transportation needs for patients and set up rides for them with SWITA. The partnership with MCMH has been going on for a bit and is seeing slow growth. The hope is to expand further out from Red Oak in the future, these rides are scheduled on Tuesdays. The SWI-Ride partnership with CHI Mercy and Methodist Jennie Ed operates Monday through Friday 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. These rides have just started up and are slowly picking up. SWITA obtained a State Transit Assistance Grant that will kick in starting in July to support this transportation. These rides are open to Council Bluffs residents along with rural Pottawattamie County and Mills County residents. The SWI-Rides program will also support rides for the elderly in the Council Bluffs area. Stukerjurgan offered up the opportunity that RSVP folks could be ride attendants or guides to help with this program. Lander agreed to discuss a potential partnership there. Bruce talked about her role assisting anyone with disabilities on the western side of the state and welcomed anyone to reach out if they know of people in need. She provided some flyers that SWITA will help distribute. Stukerjurgan

and Schnack also touched on their work to help find medical rides across the region with volunteer efforts.

6. **Other Discussion Topics.** Stukerjurgan talked about RSVP often helping with Walking Bus Route efforts in relation to the SS4A discussion. Parks touched on the HSAC transportation committee's work to provide services such as car care clinics, transit training, and other information in the Council Bluffs area. Stukerjurgan said she's seen examples of places where volunteers will ride along with a new transit user to introduce them to the system.
7. **Discuss Future Meeting Date.** Next meeting date tentatively set for Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. at the SWIPCO office and via Zoom. Parks welcomed anyone to provide agenda input prior to then.
8. **Adjourn.** Parks adjourned the meeting at 11:35 a.m.