



Regional Coordination Council (RCC7)



**APPROVED Meeting Minutes
7/28/2022**

Attendees:

In Person:

- Carol Brooks, SVTC
- Betsy Gamrat, Gate City Bike Co-op
- Janet Langdell, SVTC
- Donna Marceau, Mobility Manager
- Kerry Miller, Nashua Transit System
- Pat Murphy, Town of Merrimack Welfare
- Joanne Perez, City of Nashua Welfare
- James Wilkie, CareGivers

Remote:

- Sara Ceaser, United Way of Greater Nashua
- Camille Correa, Nashua Transit System
- Rosemary Ford, St. Joseph Hospital
- Kristin KostECKi, Meals on Wheels
- John Savage, Nashua Transit System
- Nick Schelberg, Nashua Transit System

NRPC Staff:

- Matt Waitkins, NRPC

Residents:

- Marianne Burnham, Nashua resident
- Darrien Glasser, Nashua resident (remote)
- George Hoyt, Milford resident (remote)
- Lorraine Lessard, Merrimack resident (Senior Citizens Club) (remote)
- Janet Woodard, Nashua resident

1. CALL TO ORDER

Janet Langdell opened the meeting at 10:00am.

2. INTRODUCTIONS AND COMMUNITY UPDATES

Introductions were done with in-person and remote participants.

3. REVIEW MAY 2022 MEETING MINUTES

Langdell asked for any corrections to May 2022 minutes. Langdell provided one change:

- page 2, line 3, remove “drivers” after “volunteer”

The May 2022 minutes were approved by consensus.

Langdell reviewed the history and purpose of the RCC and SCC.

4. REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PROVIDER UPDATES

NTS

Kerry Miller gave the update:

- NTS has continued outreach to include teaching people how to use the bus.

- Lorraine Lessard discussed the transportation issues the senior citizens in Merrimack have. She will connect with Miller to discuss further.

SVTC

Langdell gave the update:

- Last year had a 20% increase over previous fiscal year, at about 2,600 rides.
- Have done several outreach events.

CAREGIVERS

James Wilkie gave the update:

- He stated they have expanded into the Wolfeboro/Alton area.
- CareGivers is looking to increase their presence in Nashua and Merrimack.
- The demand for deliveries is up, not just rides. He clarified they are not an on-demand service.
- The program does not reimburse for gas so that can be a hinderance for volunteers.

Matt Waitkins read George Hoyt’s chat comment. John Savage commented that NTS did explore the possibility of exploring transit in Milford pre-covid. He stated that he could connect with Hoyt with that information. Langdell noted that Hoyt had contacted her about this topic prior to this meeting; wearing another hat as Milford Planning Board Vice-chair, she suggested that Hoyt contact Lincoln Daley, Milford’s Director of Community Development who led the most recent initiative for the Town.

Langdell skipped to the SCC update ahead of the RMM.

5. SCC UPDATE

Langdell noted there was no SCC meeting in July, next SCC meeting is August 4th and is hybrid. She discussed the Volunteer Driver Program Network’s initiative with the NH Alliance for Healthy Aging and encouraged attendees to visit the website www.nhvdp.org. SVTC incorporated the NHVDP information about the statewide need for volunteer drivers into their outreach materials. This has been a great discussion starter with a number of visitors copying the information and link and interested in volunteering.

6. REGIONAL MOBILITY MANAGER UPDATE

Donna Marceau gave the update:

- Marceau discussed the communications she has had with local transportation providers.
- She talked about the outreach she has done since starting in her position, which included reaching out to the local Chambers of Commerce.
- She discussed the survey of municipalities she conducted. She has received 7 responses out of 13 surveys sent.
- She discussed the survey she sent to major healthcare systems in the area. She received responses from 3 out of 11.
- She asked for the group to let her know of events in the region that she can attend.
- Sara Ceaser stated that it is important for transportation organizations to keep their information up to date with 211. She requested a flier with regional transportation options. Langdell stated it is in process.

Kristin KostECKi inquired about the Blue Bus, wondering about gaps in service in the region, capacity and waiting lists. Langdell mentioned current Covid protocols. She stated the Souhegan Valley Rides program does have room for more capacity, and they do not have a waiting list. Scheduling gives priority to medical appointments over other types of rides and prioritizes rides for seniors and disabled residents.

John Savage stated Blue Bus utilization is getting back to but is still lower than pre-covid numbers, but number of passengers is still lower. Demographics look younger now than pre-covid. He said ridership in Merrimack and Hudson are up. Langdell stated the biggest gaps in service in the region seem to be in Litchfield and Lyndeborough.

Regarding a question about expanding NTS in the region. Correa stated there has been information gathering done in the past and it may need to be revisited to see if the data is still viable. She suggested possibly meeting to discuss historical data – she will discuss with NRPC about the best way to move forward. Langdell pointed out that in our region, NTS is a department of the City of Nashua as opposed to other regions who have regional transit authorities.

7. REGIONAL VOLUNTEER DRIVER PROGRAM STUDY

Langdell explained the Volunteer Driver Feasibility Study that NRPC is undertaking. Waitkins stated that there is 2-year funding for the study and it is in the 2nd year. Theoretically it should be completed by next June, but the goal is by the end of the calendar year. Surveys were done of the existing programs and currently the different models are being reviewed to determine which would be best for the region. Langdell suggested the timing of the final report would be important relative to potential inclusion in the upcoming cycle for the FY24-25 5310 funding with NHDOT.

8. OTHER TRANSPORTATION ISSUES OR CONCERNS

None

9. ADJOURN:

The meeting adjourned at 11:30am.

From Zoom chat:

00:47:59 Lorraine Lessard: 603-429=1502- Lorraine Lessard

00:52:06 George Hoyt: Hi there, what would it take to have a regular bus stop for the Nashua transit system in Milford? I'm with an organization that is organizing about 40 people in Milford to work on local issues such as affordable housing and education, etc. I'm speaking as a Milford resident, not with my employer, I just wanted to get a budgetary number the Town of Milford would have to commit so I could discuss further in Milford with my peeps. Thanks, George

00:58:47 NRPC Conference Room: hang on George!

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01:01:42 George Hoyt: Ok thanks so much.
01:20:15 Rosemary Ford, she/her: Catherine McNamara cmcnamara1@covh.org
01:20:21 Rosemary Ford, she/her: Care Coordination at SJH

NEXT MEETING:

THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 2022, AT 10AM

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY KRISTIN WARDNER, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT