



## Regional Coordination Council (RCC7)



### APPROVED Meeting Minutes 2/23/2023 \*VIRTUAL MEETING\*

#### Attendees:

|                                              |                                         |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Mike Apfelberg, United Way of Greater Nashua | Kerry Miller, Nashua Transit System     |
| Jake Bortz, Via                              | Iraida Munoz, City of Nashua            |
| Sara Ceaser, United Way of Greater Nashua    | Pat Murphy, Town of Merrimack           |
| Ashley Derr, Gateways                        | Janice Pack, Town of Wilton             |
| Yvonne Goodwin, Greater Nashua NAACP         | Teri Palmer, Statewide Mobility Manager |
| Kristin Kosteki, Meals on Wheels             | Done Pare, Gate City Bike Coop          |
| Janet Langdell, SVTC                         | Sandra Pratt, Gateways                  |
| Julian Long, City of Nashua                  | James Wilkie, Caregivers                |
| Donna Marceau, Mobility Manager              |                                         |

#### NRPC Staff:

Vince Noga, Transportation/Planning Analyst  
Matt Waitkins, MPO Coordinator  
Kristin Wardner, Administrative Assistant

#### 1. Call to Order

Donna Marceau opened the meeting.

#### 2. Introductions and Community Updates

Introductions were done with in-person and remote participants.

#### 3. Review January 26, 2023, meeting minutes

Marceau asked for any corrections to the January 26, 2023, meeting minutes.

#### Amendments:

- Page 2, Caregivers section, 1<sup>st</sup> bullet: change word after Nashua to "area"
- Page 3: national average spending per capita should be \$63.00

***The January 26, 2023, minutes were passed by consensus with changes.***

#### 4. SFY 2024-2025 FTA Section 5310 RCC Funding Program

Matt Waitkins began the discussion about SFY 2024-25 RCC Funding Program. He explained the funding supports the activities of the RCCs across the state and every 2 years, the RCCs need to reapply. Details of the funding were discussed in length at the January meeting. The total funding for RCC7 per year is \$232,300 – Waitkins reviewed the 4 proposed projects.

##### 1. Project Administration and Oversight

Agency: NRPC

Total Cost: \$6,000 with 80% Federal /20% local match.

Waitkins explained that this is the allocation to NRPC as the lead agency for administration, subrecipient oversight, and compliance. The local match is funded by Souhegan Valley Transportation Collaborative (SVTC) and Caregivers.

**2. Souhegan Valley Rides**

Agency: Nashua Transit System

Total cost: \$209,375 with 80% Federal /20% local match.

Waitkins explained that this is the purchase of service which supports the bus that travels to Milford and the surrounding 5 towns. It is a demand response service operating 10.8 hours per day, 5 days per week serving 6 communities in RCC7. Local match is funded by SVTC.

**3. Regional Mobility Management**

Agency: NRPC

Total cost: \$50,000 with 100% Federal funding

Waitkins explained the scope is regional mobility management services as defined by the SCC "Blueprint" and serving RCC7 and its 13 communities, which is Donna's position. The cost represents partial funding for the RCC7 regional mobility manager position; the balance is pending via NHDOT or NRPC UPWP.

**4. Volunteer Driver Recruitment**

Agency: Caregivers

Total cost: \$12,500 with 80% Federal /20% local match.

Waitkins explained the project scope is support for expenses related to the recruitment of volunteers to better serve Region 7 communities. The local match would be funded by Caregivers.

Mike Apfelberg asked for clarification on the Caregivers project and who would qualify for rides. James Wilkie explained that it would not be for on demand rides; the rides would still be defined by the Caregivers guidelines. Apfelberg would like to make clear that the group should continue to look at the communities needs for flexible rides as that is a need his agency sees continuously. There was discussion about the need for on demand ride services. Waitkins pointed out that the 5310 funding is specifically for the "Enhanced Mobility of Seniors & Individuals with Disabilities". Langdell stated that Apfelberg is right on point with his thoughts and said the Volunteer Driving Study that has been ongoing should be completed and discussed soon. She said there has been talk about whether there are enough volunteers to support another network and it needs be talked about further. Pat Murphy agrees that there are transportation issues for all populations. She feels we should support what we have now and not take away from it and then keep advocating for more. Wilkie stated that he agrees with Apfelberg and Murphy. He believes having a Mobility Manager will allow the RCC to set long-term goals and come up with solutions.

Waitkins stated there was a question about how Caregivers will quantify the volunteer driver marketing effort. Wilkie stated Caregivers has not received funding from Region 7 in the past but he maintains the data and can share statistics on a monthly basis to show progress.

In response to Sandra Pratt, Wilkie stated they typically provide rides to low-income seniors without jobs but they do provide rides to anywhere they want to go, not just medical. He reviewed Caregivers eligibility requirements.

***Pat Murphy motioned, with a second from Mike Apfelberg, that the Nashua RCC7 supports the project descriptions and associated budget in the NRPC application for SFY 2024-2025 FTA Section 5310 RCC Program funding. The motion carries by consensus.***

## **5. Regional Provider Updates**

### **NTS**

Kerry Miller gave the update:

- NTS still has temporary service reductions due to driver shortage.
- She did a presentation at the Cultural Connections meeting.

### **SVTC**

Janet Langdell gave the update:

- Ridership has been brisk.
- Last year and the year before, rides were mostly to local destinations. In the current year they are seeing a little bit more Nashua rides than local trips.
- 58% of rides are healthcare related. 11% are free fare rides.

### **Caregivers**

James Wilkie gave the update:

- He stated that he has been doing a lot of outreach in Nashua: NTS, Senior Center, an upcoming spot on the United Way Community Connections radio show, Nashua community TV, etc.

### **Gate City Bike Co-op**

Don Pare gave the update:

- He discussed Scott from Region 2 in Conway who wanted to implement a bike co-op in his area. He is using the model from Gate City Bike Cop and improving on it by getting schools involved with a certificate program for students to do bike repairs.
- Pare said they continue to distribute bikes and things are going well.

## **6. SCC update – SCC Sustainability Meeting**

Marceau gave a brief review of the State Coordinating Council (SCC). She did not attend the last SCC meeting because she was at a transit conference. Langdell attended the meeting and discussed initiatives through the SCC relative to sustainability and funding such as updating bylaws for SCC and the RCCs, and the state needs assessment. She stated that it is her understanding that the ARPA funds request to do a statewide assessment of community transportation is stalled at the governor's office. Teri Palmer stated that there are some that are pushing to try and move it forward. Langdell stated the NH Transit Assoc. requested additional operating funding to NH DOT which was denied by the governor. There is a push for state representatives get the funding added to HB2. She reviewed that NH contributes \$0.15 per capita for operating funding for public transportation compared to: Maine - \$2.98 per capita, Connecticut - \$131 per capita, Massachusetts - \$23 per capita, Vermont - \$11 per capita.

## **7. Regional Mobility Manager Update**

Marceau reviewed her activities from the last month:

- She did some outreach in Hollis, Mason and Mont Vernon and discussed some other community outreach she has done.
- Stakeholder outreach included: Transit retreat, Cultural Connections, Elder Wrap, micro outreach to Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter, lower income clients. She is going to be the United

Way Regional Transportation leader for Community Connections group. Mike Apfelberg stated this will help coordinate the many groups they work with. She also attended the state of the city meeting with Mayor Donchess.

- Leadership Academy for Public Health: Donna is on the Gate City Transportation Team and they met with NTS and will be meeting with Caregivers. They are looking for a transportation problem that they can work on to help as many people as possible.
- She has been working on performance measures as part of the SCC oversight.
- Requests this month have been higher than expected.
- Next month Ride with Via is going to present on microtransit. Palmer said she had attended a meeting yesterday on micromobility and microtransit. She reached out to have further discussions and she is working on a microtransit workshop to discuss how it would/would not work in our state.

### **8. Other transportation issues or concerns**

Palmer stated the Tri-State Conference will be held September 6-8<sup>th</sup> which includes Vermont, Maine and NH.

Apfelberg said that United Way supports local food pantries and their clients who don't have the ability to get to the pantries to pick up food - volunteers deliver food from pantry to client's location. They are looking to expand by limiting it by switching to a twice per week option.

Donna mentioned United Way's Over the Edge fundraiser on June 26<sup>th</sup>.

Sandra Pratt discussed her project People helping People, Compassion in Action. She is collecting gently used purses and backpacks, hygiene items, snacks, for organizations in Nashua that provide services for homelessness. She is located at Gateways, 19 Chestnut Street.

### **9. Adjourn**

**The meeting adjourned by consensus.**

#### **From Zoom chat:**

00:46:29 Sandra Pratt(She/Her): individuals we serve have a huge need for rides to work. medical appointment Medicaid covers. Medicaid rides are being an issue too. rides don't show or are late, etc.

00:58:43 Pat Murphy: I can't hear James at all.

01:09:44 Kerry Miller, NTS: I can't hear James

01:25:50 Sandra Pratt(She/Her): Thank you for your leadership Donna :-)

01:28:10 Mike (he/him) Apfelberg United Way: The Elder Wrap is so important!

01:28:37 Iraida Muñoz- Public Health Equity Officer, DPH&CS: Agree. I encourage people to come visit and hear these stories.

01:29:00 Sandra Pratt(She/Her): I have to go to another meeting. thanks everyone for your affords related to transportation issues. spratt@gatewayscs.org

01:35:33 Sandra Pratt(She/Her): came back. my other meeting was canceled :-)

01:35:59 Kristin Kostecki, Meals on Wheels: I have to hop off. Thank you!

#### **Next Meeting:**

March 23, 2023

Respectfully submitted by Kristin Wardner, Administrative Assistant