



**APPROVED Meeting Minutes
Thursday, 9/28/2023**

Attendees:

In Person:

Mike Apfelberg, United Way of Greater Nashua
Representative Sherry Dutzy, Nashua Ward 3
Hillsborough County
Carol Brooks, SVTC
James Wilkie, Caregivers
Don Pare, Gate City Bike Coop, Nashua
Sara Ceaser, United Way of Greater Nashua
Sunnie Contois, NHEP (NH Employment
Program)
Susan Ball, NHEP (NH Employment
Program)

Remote:

Janice Pack, Town of Wilton
Teri Palmer, Statewide Mobility Manager
Margaret Loret, Cultural Connections
Maggie Hinkle, Plus company
Yvonne Goodwin, Greater Nashua NAACP
Janet Langdell, SVTC

NRPC Staff:

Donna Marceau, Mobility Manager
Vince Noga, Transportation/Planning Analyst

1. Call to Order

Donna Marceau opened the meeting at 10:00 am.

2. Introductions

Introductions were done with in-person and remote participants.

3. Review August 24, 2023 meeting minutes

Marceau asked for any corrections to the August 24, 2023, meeting minutes.

Langdell: "Priority given to seniors for SVTC..." should say, "...seniors and the disabled" at the bottom of page 2.

Apfelberg motioned, with a second from Brooks, to accept the August 24, 2023 minutes with the aforementioned change. Motion passed by consensus.

4. Marceau asks Representative Dutzy to give an update as the Hillsborough County representative

Dutzy:

- Met with Nashua Transit System and Manchester Transit Authority to see about moving forward and if there is local interest to create a transportation hub and plug gaps in service
- Can possibly get \$500,000 or more out of department budgets to improve current services and increase access to services

Palmer: Could this money be used as match?

Dutzy: Not sure, but it's possible.

Palmer: Are you looking at an on-demand service? Public transportation? Something to fill the gaps?
Dutzy: Transportation planners decide how it's used. Getting people to meetings and jobs. The 'How' will be based on the proposal by those who study it.

5. Regional Provider Updates

NTS

Marceau gave the update:

- October is Community Transportation Month
- Upcoming events to celebrate Community Transportation Month.
 - Rider raffles
 - Open house Oct. 4th 2:00 pm
 - Staff appreciation day
 - Paratransit (on-demand service) day
 - Bike (bicycle) week
 - Halloween dress-up on Oct. 31st

Palmer: NHTA got the ball rolling on this. Mobility Managers network will work with HR Directors to discuss community transportation options. <https://commutesmartnh.org/>. Working with Commute Smart NH for Buses, Bikes, and Brooms event.

Langdell: SVTC has been participating in this as well. Working with Nashua Transit System on these efforts.

SVTC

Langdell gave the update:

- ~240 rides per month
- Continue to get new applications each week

Brooks: Recent outreach has been successful.

Caregivers

Wilkie gave the update:

- Business as usual, things are pretty steady
- 356 rides given last month, with about 135 of them in Nashua
- Still trying to recruit volunteers. Cannot get enough volunteers to cover the rides needed

Apfelberg: How can we help recruit volunteers? Electronic information to distribute is best

Langdell: Resources available at NHAHA (NH Alliance for Healthy Aging)

Gate City Bike Co-op (GCBC)

Pare gave the update:

- Held a very successful bicycle repair/maintenance clinic with Boys & Girls club
- Looking to work with St. Joseph's Hospital bike safety program. Was inspired by Camille Correra from NTS
- Plug for Nashua Soup Kitchen, which is a big supporter of GCBC. Annual Helping Hands Fundraiser Nov 4th at Courtyard Marriott Hotel, 6:00 pm, with an auction.
- 75% of bikes donated for adults. 25% for kids. More going to patrons involved in substance abuse programs.

Marceau: Suggests GCBC look into collaborating with Bike-Tech

Palmer: Project Bike-Tech is formulated for schools. Difficulty finding schools to take this on due to shortage in teachers. Will be focusing on adult education programs in Carroll County. First in the nation to have this program in a corrections facility.

Will get more information to anyone looking to learn more

6. SCC Update

Marceau provided the following update:

- Discussion about bylaws and getting them updated

Langdell: Committee working to revise the bylaws template for presentation to SCC.

Palmer: No new requirements for reporting but using a new spreadsheet.

Langdell: Referrals information question – How to report if a provider services across regions.

Palmer: Continue to follow the system being used.

7. Regional Mobility Manager Update

Marceau gave the update:

- Community outreach update
- Preparing for Community Transportation Month
- Elderly transportation

Apfelberg: Complicated situation with the elderly and coordinating transportation. There are seniors falling through the cracks

Contois: Has the group considered reaching out to organizations such as Meals on Wheels to help with issues around elderly mobility?

Langdell: SVTC has visited community dining centers. Have included home-bound clients with brochures about transportation services available.

Marceau: United Way Walk to School meetings. Walk to school event on Oct. 4th

Hinkle: Plus Company works with those with developmental disabilities and brain injuries. Met with Marceau to discuss transportation issues getting clients to and from work.

Marceau:

- Cultural Connections Committee – October = refugees and newcomers to Nashua event.
- Tri-State Transit. Mobility Managers and EV Buses
- Medicaid Log: ~8 complaints about Medicaid
- Leadership Academy for Public Health. Transportation Forum Oct. 5th. Has heard from Republicans but not democrats. Marceau asking Dutzy if she can help assist with getting input from Democrats
- Had Statewide Mobility Managers meeting
- AXUDA \$600 no-interest loans have been given to 2 recipients
- 16 Requests for help since last meeting (not the same as new referrals)
- The Governor's Advisory Commission on Intermodal Transportation (GACIT) meeting Oct 16th in Hudson at the Community Center at 7:00 pm.

Discussion about GACIT hearings ensues.

8. Volunteer Driver Feasibility Study Discussion

Marceau opens the floor to questions about the Volunteer Driver Feasibility Study

Apfelberg: Would like to see a Working Committee to work on developing a volunteer driver program for the community

Ball: Will bring this to her supervisor to see what role NHEP can play

Marceau: Looking for volunteers to start a subcommittee to discuss development of a volunteer driver program. Will reach out to recruit individuals and organizations for this subcommittee

9. United Way

Apfelberg gave the update:

- Oct. 25 United Way is holding a competitive Karaoke fundraiser at the Nashua Center for the Arts

2023 Milford Pumpkin Festival

Langdell gives details about the Milford Pumpkin Festival in Milford NH, on October 6, 7, & 8

10. Adjourn

Apfelberg makes a motion to adjourn and Dutzy seconds at 11:59 am

The meeting adjourned by consensus.

From Zoom chat:

- 01:03:31 Palmer: <https://commutesmartnh.org/> Once you go to the website, under commuter challenges you will find the Community Transportation Month information. Thank you!
- 01:08:04 Palmer: <https://nhaha.info/>
- 01:12:40 Langdell: NH Alliance for Healthy Aging initiated a VDP recruitment program. The direct link is via NH Volunteer Driver Program group www.nhvdp.org Takes you to the page/info hosed on NHAHA website. They will be doing more ads and outreach with a recent grant received.

Next Meeting:

Thursday, October 26, 2023

Respectfully submitted by Vincent Noga, Transportation/Planning Analyst.