



DRAFT
Regional Coordinating Council (RCC)
Meeting Minutes
2/25/2021

Attendees:

Camille Pattison, NTS
Carol Brooks, SVTC
Janet Langdell, SVTC
John Savage, NTS
Lisa Emerson, Milford Welfare
Dennie Townsend, SVTC

Angela Wesson, NTS
Pat Murphy, Town of Merrimack
Henry Harris, Southern NH Services
Matt Waitkins, NRPC
Mason Twombly, NRPC
Jay Minkarah, NRPC

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Matt Waitkins opened the meeting at 10:05am asking for a round of introductions. Mentioning that we have a couple of new faces joining us.

REVIEW OF JANUARY 2021 MEETING MINUTES

Waitkins asked if there were any questions about the January 2021 meeting minutes. There were no questions on the minutes.

All were in favor of accepting the January 2021 Meeting Minutes.

NHDOT/FTA SECTION 5310 PROGRAM SFY 2022-2023 FUNDING APPLICATION

Waitkins and Langdell gave a brief overview of the FTA 5310 Program. Langdell shared a presentation outlining how the program operates. She noted that NHDOT is flat funding the next two-year cycle. That said, NHDOT has identified an additional funding source that will be folded into this funding cycle. The additional funding is coming from the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) program and will may only be used to fund Mobility Management projects. The NHDOT has not yet determined how much CMAQ funding will be apportioned to each region in this funding round. The proposal for this round of funding in the Nashua RCC region is for 3 projects:

- FTA 5310 funded projects:
 - Purchase of Service: Continue SVTC demand response service which is contracted from NTS.
 - Project Cost (SFY 2022-2023):
 - FTA: \$294,461
 - Local Match: \$73,615
 - Mobility Management: Continued administrative services provided by NRPC.
 - Project Cost (SFY 2022-2023):
 - FTA: \$9,600
 - Local match: \$2,400

- Total Section 5310 Program funds requested:
 - o FTA: \$304,061
 - o Local Match: \$76,015
- CMAQ funded projects:
 - Mobility Management: Regional Mobility Manager
 - o Project Cost: TBD

Since the contracted services are calculated using the NTS hourly rate and specific minimum number of service hours, there is an estimated \$3,600 left over after funding the SVTC program that could be used for projects other than specifically defined in the POS project description. Providing trips for homebound seniors to Covid-19 vaccination location was cited as an example of trips that may be provided during the contract period. Wilkie asked about the current funding situation and asked for clarification that all of this funding is going to one activity. Langdell and Pattison gave an explanation about how it came to be that SVTC was the only player in requesting this funding. Noting that historically Nashua, Merrimack, and Hudson were already well served, and the major gap was around Greater Milford. There was continued discussion around how the funding is allocated, how the matching funds are obtained, and fundraising. There was additional clarification that there has never been a request from RCC stakeholders to fund additional projects beyond the SVTC demand response service and that the RCC would welcome proposals to fund additional services and to increase coordination.

The volunteer driver network feasibility study was discussed regarding identifying the gaps in the region. Langdell noted that no one here wants to reinvent the wheel, we want to try to fill the gaps in service in our region the best way we can. That may entail using an existing organization or having a new service.

There was continued discussion around the level of funding for 5310 in our region and why the amounts are smaller than in some of our neighboring regions.

Waitkins noted that we are looking for a motion to support the 5310-funding application.

Motion: The Nashua RCC supports the project descriptions and associated budget in the NRPC application for SFY 2022-2023 FTA Section 5310 RCC Program funding.

Motion by Murphy, seconded by Townsend. All were in favor.

LOCAL, REGIONAL, STATEWIDE UPDATES

NTS

Pattison gave an update of ridership numbers for Nashua Transit System (NTS). She is hopefully that the improving weather may help to boost numbers. She noted that it would be ideal to see a rebound of near 75% of ridership pre-COVID-19. She also mentioned that the improvement for the transit center is moving along, and that the next major project would be live tracking of vehicles. Langdell questioned whether the Token application was able to be used for the para transit buses. Savage mentioned that it is possible but difficult because they cannot charge a variable amount to paratransit riders accounts.

SVTC UPDATE

Langdell gave a presentation comparing the 2019 and 2020 ridership for SVTC. She noted that ridership overall was down by 44%. Major destinations have of course changed drastically due to what has remained open during the pandemic. She also stressed that SVTC is providing rides to Covid-19 vaccinations.

SCC

Bulk of meeting was taken up by the conversation around mobility manger positions. This revolve around full vs part time, job descriptions etc. The SCC Annual report has been completed and adopted. Matt noted he would send that out to the group He noted DHHS is back at the table and participating at SCC.

Langdell asked the Welfare administrators if they have seen a demand from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients for transportation. Murphy and Emerson explained that they have not because usually they have to live with other family members because TANF is such little money.

SNHS

Harris noted that if anyone needs any help getting residents assistance to reach out to him.

ADJOURN:

The meeting adjourned at 11:13 am.

NEXT MEETING:

THURSDAY, MARCH 25TH, 2021 (10:00AM-12:00PM)