



NASHUA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION  
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

**APPROVED MINUTES**  
**NRPC TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Wednesday, October 9, 2024, 12:00 p.m.**

**Members Present:**

Will Ludt, Town of Amherst Eric Slosek, Town of Amherst (virtual) Ben Witham-Gradert, Town of Hudson Kim Kleiner, Town of Litchfield (virtual) Mark Chamberlain, Town of Lyndeborough (virtual) Dawn Tuomala, Town of Merrimack Nicole Crawford, Town of Milford (virtual)	Levent Akinci, City of Nashua Dan Hudson, City of Nashua Wayne Husband, City of Nashua Camille Correa, Nashua Transit System Nick Germain, Town of Wilton Jack Wade, NHDES (virtual) Lucy St. John, NHDOT (virtual)
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**Others Present:**

Lori Lorman, Nashua Transit System	
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**NRPC Staff Present:**

Ned Connell Kathy Kirby Donna Marceau Jay Minkarah	Emma Rearick Sarah Tupper Matt Waitkins
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**a. Call to Order and Introductions**

Waitkins called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m.

**b. Approval of the August 14, 2024 & September 11, 2024, meeting minutes – Action Item**

Two edits were identified: the spelling of Jennifer Beauregard's name needs to be corrected and Nashua Transit – delete “Authority” and replace it with the word *System*.

No quorum, thus the vote to approve the minutes will be taken at the next monthly meeting.

**c. Community Transportation & Regional Mobility Management – Information Item**

Matt Waitkins provided an introduction, defining community transportation. Donna Marceau, RCC7/NRPC Regional Mobility Manager, made the presentation.

- Marceau gave her background and the functions of her position. Gaps exist in community transportation services and Marceau helps bridge those gaps. If anyone in the region has unmet transportation needs, please contact Marceau to help find appropriate transportation.
- Goals: keeping people connected to transportation; inform residents in the region about available services; establish a community vision.
- NH’s Community Transportation Network: History - the State Coordinating Council (SCC) was created in 2007. There are 9 community transportation regional bodies in the state of NH. SCC holds monthly meetings that are open to the public.

- Federal funding for community transportation is distributed to the state (NHDOT) and then to the RCCs.
- Marceau reviewed an organizational chart titled, “Statewide Mobility Management Network.” Marceau operates under the guidelines in the “Blueprint for Implementation.” The regional mobility managers work together throughout the state to get people to where they want to go.
- Transportation requests that fall outside the standard community transportation options are referred to as “gaps.”: most people are looking to go to medical appointments in the state of NH and to Boston. Most transportation requests Marceau receives are medical transportation requests. Recently, there have been calls for food. There are also calls for job transport. Recently, more calls are coming in that are from people who have no car and rely on community transportation to save money – primarily, residents of Wilton and Nashua are making these requests.
- Volunteer drivers: Marceau mentioned the ongoing need for volunteer drivers. The 65+ age group is the fastest-growing age group in the region.
- What are the transportation options for our RCC7 Region 2 residents? Attendees offered the following:
  - Contact volunteer driver programs: volunteer drivers are needed. [www.NHVDP.org](http://www.NHVDP.org). Partner agencies: Caregivers, CVTC (Monadnock region), Greater Salem Caregivers.
  - When/if it becomes available, rail expansion to Nashua – considerations discussed
  - Boston Express Bus
  - Shopping shuttles are arranged within towns. Those that do exist typically originate from senior centers/housing/living communities.
  - Partner agencies: i.e. Gate City Bike Coop ([gatecitybikecoop.org](http://gatecitybikecoop.org)), CommuteSmartNH
- RCC7 holds monthly meetings every 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every month at 10 a.m. at the NRPC offices. The RCC7 region coincides with NRPC’s region. The meetings are open to the public.
- Marceau offered a slide with a link and QR code to access a *Community Transportation Directory*.
- KeepNHmoving.com worksite is the NH Transportation website.
- Community Transportation Service providers: Souhegan Valley Rides, Caregivers, Hudson, and Merrimack Transit.
- People seeking rides need to register for ride services. Contact Marceau at NRPC.
- Funding to fill in the transportation gaps: St. Mary’s Bank has provided a grant to fill the transportation gaps.

**d. Nashua Transit System (NTS): Celebrating 40 Years – Information Item**

Camille Correa, Nashua Transit System (NTS) introduced herself and presented the history of the NTS and the evolution of services provided by NTS.

- 1895 – electric trolley service was created to move people around Nashua and beyond. Bus services started in 1945. Paratransit services started in 1979.
- Nashua Transit System and the NTS buses started in 1984.
- NTS mission: To connect people with their destinations in Greater Nashua through safe and reliable transportation services.

- NTS service area: Nashua has fixed-route service along ten routes. Some of the fixed routes are on-demand only. Service is extended on-demand beyond Nashua throughout most of the NRPC region, excluding Pelham, Litchfield, Lyndeborough, and Mason. Night service began in 2003 and 50 to 60 people regularly take the bus at night. No Sunday service is available at this time.
- \$1.25 adult fare; .60 reduced fare; Age 60+ ride free.
- Smaller buses are used for contract services and the NTS paratransit vehicles. They can maneuver side streets and lower ramps (every vehicle NTS has ADA-accessible ramps). Only the trolleys have lifts; ramps are easier to use and the pitch is smaller. NTS makes approximately 20 wheelchair trips per day.
- Demand response service is available in the SVTC region, Hudson, and Merrimack. Operations times: Mon-Fri, 8:30 a.m.– 4:00 p.m. Reservations are required anywhere from 2 to 14 days in advance – call (603) 880-0100.
- Fares vary. Fixed Route Bus adult fare is \$1.25, the reduced fare is .60, and ADA Complementary Paratransit Service is \$2.50
- NTS offers transportation connections to Manchester via Manchester Transit Service, including MHT airport, and to the Boston Express Service for Boston Logan Airport and South Station.
- NTS has Google Translate available to employees on their tablets to help non-English-speaking residents.
- Funding: 60% comes from the Federal government (NRPC assists in the process), and 39% comes from local sources (fares, general fund, donations/fundraising, contracted services, and grants. Less than 1% comes from the State of NH.
- Waitkins stated there is an existing ten-year plan project that includes bus shelters.

**e. Other NRPC project updates – Information Item**

2027-2036 Ten-Year Plan timeline - Connell gave an update. Since August, the consultants/engineering review has been in process and should be done by the end of October. By early November, the scoring committee should have finished their prioritization of the projects. At the November 13 TTAC meeting, a member of the scoring committee will present the prioritized projects. Within a few days after that meeting, the scoring committee's list of prioritized projects will be sent to NHDOT. St. John reminded everyone that November 8 is the target date for each RPC to submit their initial prioritized project list to NHDOT. The finalized lists will be due at the end of March. Refer to Sept 26, 2024, NHDOT's direction.

Safe Streets For All – Planning Grant – As announced at the last meeting by VHB, the public survey had over 1,000 respondents. Report writing is underway. There was a meeting completed within the Environmental Justice Zone (which is Nashua for this region). Comments from that meeting will be incorporated in the plan which will be completed by the end of the year. Some of those comments highlighted the need for bus stop platforms, shelters, and appropriate lighting; safe sidewalks or paths to bus stops; and improved protection for bicyclists with paths and marked designated lanes.

TIP Amendment VII – NHDOT has provided the DRAFT version. Impacted communities have been notified. Local projects include Amherst Rail Trail increased costs, Brookline NH13 & Old Milford Rd is being bumped to FY2025-28 TIP, Milford's rehab of the Swing Bridge increased costs, and Pelham Old Bridge Street over Beaver Brooks Bridge rehab increased costs. The public comment period is

11/8 – 11/18. TTAC review is on 11/13 with NRPC MPO Commissioners review and public hearing on 11/19. There will be a tap brown – info on the DOT website – the application process starts in late fall. There’s a National Scenic Byways Notice of Funding opportunity – info available on the NHDOT website.

**Municipal, State, and Federal updates – Information Item**

NHDOT Updates - Lucy St. John – three reminders: The Public Involvement document has been posted on the NHDOT website.

*Many thanks were expressed to Camille Correa and Donna Marceau for their interesting and informative presentations today.*

City of Nashua – Akinci informed everyone that the scooter program has ended for the season. Usage data has been collected and can be shared upon request.

Merrimack – Tuomala stated that Merrimack had the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the newly completed connector trail between Watson Park (parking area) and Wildcat Falls.

Hudson – Witham-Gradert informed everyone that the bridges coming into town (westbound side), are finally completed with jersey barriers moved over. Sidewalk reconstruction on the north side of the bridge is under construction. Eastbound sidewalks will be tackled in 2026.

Wilton – Germain reported that the Town of Wilton will be posting for a new Highway Department Manager.

**f. Adjournment- 1:30 - Ben and Dawn**

Waitkins made a motion to adjourn at 1:25 p.m. Ben Witham-Gradert moved the motion. Consensus among the attendees to adjourn.

**Zoom Meeting Chat:** none to report.

***The next TTAC meeting is scheduled for November 13, 2024.***