

MINUTES OF THE: Greater Manchester [R8] Regional Coordination Council

Tuesday, October 24, 2019

ATTENDEES:

Mike Whitten – MTA

Laurie Makarawicz – MTA/CART

Lisa Ludwigsen – Easterseals NH

Fred Roberge – Easterseals NH

Debra Perou – RNMOW

Jo Ann Duffy – Goffstown

Cindy Yanski – Region 3 CAPBMCI

Nate Miller – SNHPC

Adam Hlasny – SNHPC

1. Call to Order

Chair Fred Roberge called the meeting to order at 2:05 PM.

2. Action on the Minutes of August 20 (R8) and September 10, 2019 (R9)

Motion by Laurie to approve the Region 8 minutes, seconded by Fred and approved unanimously with Jo Ann and Mike abstaining.

Motion by Scott to approve the Region 9 minutes, seconded by Mike and approved unanimously.

3. Potential Region 8-Region 9 Merger

There was a discussion about the pros and cons of merging the two RCC regions, given that there is much member overlap and shared workload between them. Benefits include:

- consolidation/streamlining of regular meetings
- having only one lead agency/MOU
- need for only one coordinated plan

Mike added that there would be no “artificial wall” separating regions that are geographically similar. Fred acknowledged the potential benefits as long as the new single region can maintain a collaborative attitude. He noted that regions 5 and 6 have merged, but that those regions are far more rural in nature.

There was a question about funding distribution. Nate said that a consolidated contract would break down in a roughly 60/40 split between R8 and R9 funding, noting that current funding levels could likely be preserved for both areas.

Motion by Scott to further develop a merger framework, discuss with NHDOT and members absent from the meeting, and placing the item on the next meeting agenda. Motion seconded by Mike and approved unanimously.

Fred noted that if the merger is approved regionally, a formal request must be made to the SCC.

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.1 MTA/CART Merger

Mike said the merger has been going very smoothly since September 30. As of FTA’s recent draft triennial review, MTA received no deficiencies or advisory comments; FTA is fully on board. He added that the new CART vehicle should be arriving by mid-December.

4.2 New Boston Shuttle

Mike and Laurie reported that while ridership is up, it was still a very disappointing six riders as of September. He added that if ridership does not increase significantly over the winter, the service will likely be discontinued, as the funding could be better used in another community such as Goffstown. Nate mentioned that Sylvia and Adam have met with various town stakeholders to do an outreach blitz. Laurie said that she had been at a senior lunch in New Boston prior to this meeting.

4.3 Joint Mobility Management Initiative

Fred said that he's left a voicemail for Deb Bartley of Lamprey Health to attempt to arrange a meeting. He will continue to do the best he can to fulfill the objectives of the project while remaining short-staffed at Easterseals. He and Mike will be setting up an outreach plan over the next week.

Nate mentioned the Tuscan Village development in Salem and Woodmont Commons in Londonderry as potential partners that should be stepping up to the plate and coordinating their burgeoning transportation needs in the region.

4.4 5310 Capital Grant Discussion/Consideration of Application Endorsements

Fred said that Easterseals is applying for two replacement vehicles that will operate in the Greater Manchester region, and one that will operate in the Rochester area. He has already received a letter of support from MTA.

Motion by Jo Ann Duffy authorizing Adam Hlasny to sign a letter of support on behalf of the R8 RCC, seconded by Nate and approved unanimously.

4.5 Discussion of Semi-Annual DBE Reporting to NHDOT

Nate briefly spoke on the reporting requirements for the time period of April 1-September 30 and the due date of November 15, 2019. He warned Adam that CareGivers will likely need some extra guidance on this.

4.6 SCC

Fred said that the mobility management subcommittee chaired by Jeff Donald has been working on setting mobility manager standards for each NH region.

Judy Shanley of the National Mobility Management Center has committed to present at the March 2020 meeting, making the presentation more of a Q&A session than the last one she gave in 2018.

There are also efforts afoot to encourage state departments to have more interagency coordination discussions; specifically, concerning funding silos, service delivery issues, and how to combine resources.

Finally, Jesse Lore is working on a review of Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) and how they fit into the overall picture of coordination in New Hampshire.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

Nate said that Victoria Sheehan has been re-nominated for another term as Commissioner of NHDOT.

6. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for **December 3, 2019**, 1pm at Derry Municipal Center.

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn by Laurie, seconded by Scott. Meeting stood adjourned at 3:55 PM.