

Consolidated Manchester/ Derry-Salem (R8) Regional Coordination Council

Monday, November 1, 2021

Hybrid: SNHPC/Zoom

MEETING NOTES

ATTENDEES (* indicates attendance via Zoom):

Fred Roberge, Chair – Easterseals NH

Kristin Kostecky - Hillsborough County MOW*

George Sioras – Derry

Tracey Whitehead - CART

Mike Whitten – MTA

James Wilkie – NH Catholic Charities*

Steve Workman – TransportNH*

RPC Staff

Scott Bogle – RPC*

Carl Eppich – SNHPC

Nate Miller – SNHPC

Sylvia von Aulock – SNHPC

Adam Hlasny – SNHPC

1. Call to Order

Chair Fred Roberge called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM, noting that a quorum was not present.

2. Action on Minutes of August 11, 2021

The minutes were tabled due to lack of a quorum.

3. Coordinated Plan Update

Scott noted that the transportation provider survey has been posted for about a month, with 9 responses thus far. He will be making follow-up calls in the coming weeks, with assistance from Carl and Adam.

There was a brief Goals and Strategies work session, during which the following was discussed:

- Sylvia suggested adding libraries/other community centers to the existing “senior centers” language, since not all towns in Region 8 have a senior center per se.
- Fred suggested adding language pertaining to the new role of regional Mobility Managers (MM) in both outreach and the coordination of services. This should be directly tied into language from the statewide MM blueprint.
- Sylvia suggested adding an item about expanding outreach so that more seniors know about existing services.
- Nate added that a potential outreach focus area is people who are aware of transportation services but choose not to use due to stigma, an intimidation factor, or other reasons.
- Fred and Mike noted the importance of acknowledging the limitations of existing systems, using the example of MTA’s StepSaver. It would not be wise to increase outreach on this service, as it is already maxed out, and more denials would risk long-term harm.
- Nate suggested adding an item related to exploring new service delivery options, such as microtransit. Autonomous vehicles should also be included in some way.

There was continued discussion about other timely topics affecting transit and coordination, including the difficulty of driver recruitment/retention, and onerous regulatory requirements. Fred said that it will be important to work with regulatory agencies to ensure safety but also to promote coordination and partnerships.

Mike noted that it would be helpful to type up changes to this document and approve at the next RCC meeting rather than continuing to tweak.

There was a discussion about the difficulty achieving an in-person quorum of 7 at RCC meetings. Kristin noted that several other RCCs are having the same difficulties. The idea of having quarterly business meetings with other intermediate “work sessions” was floated. Mike suggested holding RCC meetings in conjunction with other meetings, such as the SNHPC TAC, so that members can economize time and avoid multiple trips.

Fred requested NH 91-A statutes and potential workarounds for the quorum issues be added to the next RCC agenda.

4. Mobility Management Status Updates

Statewide MM is moving forward with RLS as a contractor. Fred added that the SCC will get a copy of the workplan on which to provide input. Steve said that the target date to get CDC funding in place is the last Governor and Council meeting in November.

Steve is putting together a draft RFP for MM services which will be shared among RCCs. Nate asked those present for suggestions of which firms might be qualified to respond to the RFP, as typically a direct invitation is sent in addition to publishing the RFP via a legal ad in the *Union Leader*.

Fred suggested developing an RCC committee to work on the RFP prior to the next full RCC meeting. This committee will be composed of Fred, Nate, Scott, and Mike. It will meet the week after Thanksgiving and report back to the full RCC by mid-December to solicit final RFP approval.

5. GACIT Update

George reported that the GACIT meeting held in Derry last week was successful and included 15-20 members of the public. He appreciated Councilor Janet Stevens’ attentiveness to the testimony of Mike and others regarding the difficulties faced by MTA/CART in hiring drivers.

6. Other Business

Nate asked those present if anyone has an FTA 5310 Capital application. There were none. Nate reminded RCC members to ensure funding received through SNHPC is reported on the Single Audit Report of Federal Expenditures. Finally, Nate reminded RCC members that DBE reporting is due today, noting that Fred and Jim have submitted theirs already.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for **Tuesday, December 7, 2021**, and will include the following agenda items:

- Coordinated Plan follow ups, including approval of updated Goals and Strategies
- Discussion of 91-A/RCC in-person quorum requirements/meeting options for 2022
- Review and Approval of RFP for Regional Mobility Manager

The meeting stood adjourned at 11:05am.