

# Consolidated Manchester/ Derry-Salem [R8] Regional Coordination Council

**Monday, December 5, 2022**

Hybrid: SNHPC/Zoom

## MEETING MINUTES

**ATTENDEES** (\* indicates attendance via Zoom, **BOLD** indicates RCC member):

**Fred Roberge, Chair - Easterseals NH**  
Benjamin Herbert - R8 Mobility Manager  
Teri Palmer - State Mobility Manager

**George Sioras - Derry**  
**Tracey Whitehead - CART**  
**Mike Whitten - MTA**  
**James Wilkie - CareGivers NH**

**John Wilson - Citizen Member**  
**Scott Bogle - RPC**  
**Nate Miller - SNHPC**  
Carl Eppich - SNHPC\*  
Sylvia von Aulock - SNHPC  
Adam Hlasny - SNHPC

### **1. Call to Order**

Chair Fred Roberge called the meeting to order at 11:03 AM.

### **2. Action on Minutes of August 16, October 11, 2022**

***Motion by Scott to approve August minutes, seconded by George and approved unanimously. Motion by George to approve October meeting notes, seconded by Scott and approved unanimously.***

### **3. FTA 2024-25 FTA 5310 Work Session**

Nate said that the RCC should be thinking about the next two years of FTA 5310 funding (7/1/23 - 6/30/25). NHDOT solicitations usually appear around the holidays or in early January, with typical due dates in late February/early March. The base state allocation for Region 8 is \$364,464 per year. That amount is expected to stay level, and there is a chance it might increase. The biggest question mark is the \$55,000 in supplemental regional mobility manager funding. The RCC did not draw down any of this funding in the current fiscal year, so there may be a possibility of carrying it over to the first year of the new contract. This can be discussed further with NHDOT in the coming weeks upon announcement of the new 5310 round.

John noted that even if funding amounts increase, this may be used solely by existing subrecipients to maintain current services with increased hourly rates.

Activities 1-3 (Goffstown, Hooksett, New Boston Shuttles) are expected to carry on unchanged, other than the expected hourly rate increase.

Some changes will be proposed for Activity 4 (CART Nutrition Shuttle and Demand-Response). A redesigned service could take the form of late afternoon-early evening demand-response, limited Saturday service, or some combination. The original intent of this activity was to transport clients to meal centers, a service that was profoundly

affected by Covid. The RCC must collaborate with Rockingham Nutrition Meals on Wheels to discern the best use of these funds in FY24-25.

No changes are anticipated to Activity 5 (Easterseals Demand-Response service), but additional funding for Activity 7 (ES mobility management) would be welcomed.

In terms of Activity 8 (CareGivers Volunteer Driver Recruitment), James said that one of the program's biggest expenses is background checks, which can take 6-7 weeks. There is another service whose checks only take 1-2 weeks but cost \$60-130 per check. Recruitment and software are other major expenses. Nate said that we will need to continue the background check discussion with NHDOT. James added that CareGivers is currently recruiting 15-20 new volunteer drivers per month, but often loses the same amount. There are 169 active clients as of this month, but numbers are fluid.

#### **4. Updates**

Teri reported that she is currently speaking to VDPs around the state - three of the four she has talked with are interested in expanding. Another activity is working with senior and recreational centers throughout the state, trying to find accessible vehicles that are currently underutilized. A statewide website update is imminent as well.

Ben reported on his progress in region 8, noting that the first mobility management newsletter is nearly ready for distribution. He has also been working with Manchester grassroots group Victory Women of Vision, who are looking to implement a travel training program to assist new immigrants with limited English proficiency navigate the MTA system.

Fred reported that there will be an SCC Strategic Planning Summit on December 14.

#### **5. Other Business**

Nate said that today is the deadline for the FTA 5310 Capital program solicitation. There was no indication any providers from Region 8 would be applying, and therefore no action to be taken on a letter of support.

Nate also mentioned the 5305(e) transit planning program, which requires a 20% match. The application deadline is January 18, 2023.

#### **6. Next Meeting**

The next full RCC meeting will be held on **Tuesday, January 17, 2023, at 1:00 PM**. The bulk of the meeting will be devoted to refining a program of FY24-25 5310 projects. A follow-up public hearing will be scheduled, likely in mid-February, to approve this program in advance of the deadline.

***Motion by Mike to adjourn, seconded by George. Meeting stood adjourned at 12:44 PM.***