

Alliance for Community Transportation (ACT)

Working to expand affordable and efficient community transportation in southeastern New Hampshire

MEETING OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

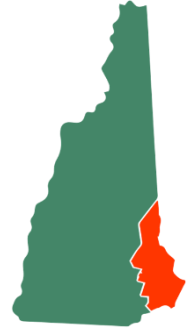
WEDNESDAY, JULY 7, 2021

9 – 10:30AM

McCONNELL CENTER ROOM 305

DOVER, NH

Minutes



1. Introductions

Members Present: Colin Lentz (SRPC), Rad Nichols (COAST), Betty Smith (Ready Rides), Tahja Fulwider (Ready Rides), Fred Roberge (Easterseals Homemakers), Sharon Reynolds (citizen member).

Staff Present: Jeff Donald (COAST)

2. Approval of May 5, 2021 Meeting Minutes {VOTE}

S. Reynolds made a motion to approve the minutes as written.

Seconded by F. Butler

Vote: unanimous in favor via roll call vote

3. Updates

a. Monthly Financials

J. Donald presented financial information through May and said June numbers would be available soon. Purchased transportation is currently under budget. FTA5310 admin and FTA5307 mobility management look off because of the pandemic's effect on ridership. The original budget assumed more local match would be available, but low ridership reduced the amount of match that usually gets generated. Partner support has more than expected because RnMOW had to provide local match instead of using Ready Rides' noncash match. Expenses are generally in good shape. Community Rides looks like it's 20% over budget, but that's expected because of the carryover funds from SFY20 to SFY 21.

b. Triplink Dashboard

J. Donald reviewed the most recent ridership data. There was recently a slight uptick in services as ridership continues to recover. RnMOW increased ridership from their Plaistow location. Other providers have mostly flat ridership. The number of trips booked is flat but trips provided is up (maybe standing orders are being cancelled). Seeing more trips per rider in ADA. Comparing June 2020 to June 2021, RNMOW is getting back to its pre-pandemic proportion of ridership.

4. Budget Updates

J. Donald noted that ACT had recently moved funding from purchased transportation to FTA 5310 Admin to save some of the FTA 5307 funds that COAST was going to flex to use to fund ACT.

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MILTON
NEW CASTLE
NEW DURHAM
NEWFIELDS
NEWINGTON
NEWMARKET
NEWTON
NORTH HAMPTON
NORTHWOOD
NOTTINGHAM
PORTSMOUTH
ROCHESTER
ROLLINSFORD
RYE
SEABROOK
SOMERSWORTH
SOUTH HAMPTON
STRAFFORD
STRATHAM
WAKEFIELD

5. SFY2022 Draft Budget

J. Donald explained that ACT's contract and draft budget for SFY2022 had been approved by Governor & Council. It included unexpected additional funding that would require a board vote on how to allocate it in the budget prior to final execution. The state had included an additional \$65,000 for ACT for mobility management that would be matched with toll credits. That amount may even increase to \$120,000 but hasn't been approved. J. Donald explained that a CDC grant to New Hampshire set aside funds for rural RCCs and NHDOT transferred funds to support urban RCCs.

J. Donald said that the budget needs to be looked at to decide how to account for the additional funds (whether it's \$65,000 or \$120,000). It could be incorporated generally and the budget could roll over a surplus into next year, or the funds could be spent strategically this year. The funds could be allocated to individual providers or be used to reduce the local match burden. Current funds budgeted for administration could be shifted to purchased transportation, and replaced with the additional funds from the state. On top of this, local grants had been awarded from Rockingham County, Strafford County, and the City of Dover. This is a good thing because it reduces the amount of local match required for providers, but the board needs to decide when to use the additional funds.

J. Donald said the FY22 budget would be voted on at the September meeting. He presented three options for an updated budget:

Option 1

Assumes \$120,000 will be available and doesn't add any additional expenses. This leaves \$10,670 in federal funds unspent. It also includes \$17,225 in net gain.

Option 2

This option would eliminate any underspend on federal funds. The result would be similar to option 1, but Strafford CAP's senior shuttle would be allocated the balance of available federal funds.

Option 3

Option 3 assumes ACT would only receive \$65,000 rather than the full possible \$120,000. COAST would still need to flex FTA 5307 funds to help fill any gap in local match. Some additional partner support would be needed.

Members discussed factors affecting the decision on how to structure the budget. J. Donald said a final decision would need to be made at the September board meeting.

6. SCC Updates

F. Roberge reported that the Dept. of Health and Human Services had attended an SCC meeting for the first time in many years. He noted that there was interest from Congressman Pappas' office in a potential \$3 million grant to rural RCCs that would focus on strategic planning linked to mobility management.

7. Information Exchange

J. Donald said he had been reaching out to providers for ridership data for SFY2021. He will provide compiled data at the September meeting. He noted that Exeter hospital is once again sponsoring events, though their grant program hasn't re-opened yet.

J. Donald said that though it hasn't been finalized yet, there was a possible \$150,000 available for volunteer driver recruitment and advertising. The funds were originally set aside to support transportation to state vaccination sites, but those are now closed. He moderates the statewide VDP peer to peer network that may gel around funding. J. Donald said he would have more information soon.

8. Public Comment

No public comments were brought forward to the board.

9. Adjournment

B. Smith made a motion to adjourn

Seconded by C. Lentz

Vote: Unanimous in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00am