

**Alliance for Community Transportation (ACT)
MEETING MINUTES
September 2, 2009**

Present: Scott Bogle (RPC), Cynthia Copeland (SRPC), Carol Garlough (AGCHC), Carol Gulla (TASC), Ken Hazeltine (GSIL), Patrick Herlihy (NHDHHS), Heather Hesse-Stromberg (SN), Myranda McGowan (SRPC), Rad Nichols (COAST), Sharon Reynolds (Consumer, CP)

Rad Nichols: Mobility Manager Update

- Advertised for position in late June 2009 and received 35 applications. Interviewed three people and determined that no one warranted a second interview.
- Re-advertise next week and ask that people submit their salary requirements.
- Plan to use Foster's Daily Democrat and advertise with the State Transportation Associations, Transit Associations, Municipal Associations and the Community Transportation Association of America.
- Hiring committee (Rad, Patrick, Heather and Deb Bartley) meets again just before our next meeting.

Heather Hesse-Stromberg: Regional Coordinating Council Update

- Plans to seek recognition as RCC by November.
- Have approximately seven out of twelve or thirteen MOUs. Other RCCs have had ten MOUs when they've applied.
- It is important to identify citizen-member and make him/her part of the process.

Involvement of Additional 5310s

- Since substantial chunks of money go to 5310s, we would like to include Seacoast Mental Health Center and others in our ad hoc group.
- DOT needs to enforce legislative language that involves 5310s in our process.
- **Action:** Heather plans to draft a warm, friendly invitation letter to 5310s and ask Kit Morgan of the DOT to co-sign it.
- DOT contract requires coordination (e.g., maintenance, joint fuel purchases). DOT could require stricter interpretation of coordination.
- All but one 5310, Granite State Independent Living, is involved in the coordinated plan. If necessary, the coordinated plan can be amended with a letter.
- Does it make sense for 5310s to go through the MPO process—like an application—so it has a regional basis? That would draw attention to the process.
- \$200,000 doesn't go very far—between six and eight vehicles can be purchased. Ten agencies were funded last year.
- Application process takes between one and two years. Things change in this economic climate. Once brokers are chosen, region submits priorities to DOT where recommendations come from MPOs.
- Program is one line item.
- RCC recommendations included in application process.

- **Action:** At next SCC meeting, Rad plans to ask DOT that future 5310s must receive recommendation letter from RCCs. (Half of the ad hoc groups will be in the application process within the next six months.)

Rad Nichols, Patrick Herlihy: State Coordinating Council (SCC) Update

- The SCC meets after Labor Day (September 8, 2009).
- Jeanne Ryer is working on language for SCC legislation. There is interest at regional levels for sponsors.
- RCC protections and definitions will be better defined in legislation. The SCC is working with regional planning commissions to alleviate some fears.
- The RCC Committee is considering two regions for RCC status: Manchester area and Sullivan County.
- SCC released an RFP for a mobility manager with 80/20 funding.
- September 29, 2009: CART meets again. Does CART want to be an RCC?
- On the SCC's recommendation, Grafton and Coos counties voted to merge: 3,000 square miles from Lebanon, NH to Colebrook, NH.
- Monadnock, Cheshire and Belknap/Merrimac counties have not met yet. There may not be sufficient call volume. There may not be a broker.
- Chris McMahon of Easter Seals is leaving for a NY, nonprofit. Easter Seals is looking at contracts. They must be fully funded. They are not in a position to maintain a statewide presence now.

Other Business

- Kit Morgan of DOT gave a presentation to the RCC Review Committee.
- **Action:** Remind Kit to put RCC applications on the website. Pat Crocker did a good job on application.
- At COAST's August Board Meeting, the Board of Directors voted against COAST playing the role of broker/RTC for our ad hoc group.
- **Unanswered questions:** Are there enough administrative fees attached to a call center? Are there enough funding resources for a call center? Is there enough money to pay a broker? Who wants to purchase transportation in region? Should Medicaid change its policies to restrict funding?
- Legislation hasn't been flushed out yet. SCC doesn't want to miss anything. Jeanne Ryer assigned Ken to the Governance Committee to review legislation.
- Will their message be to review language regarding state funding of transit? Will they listen to RCC recommendations?
- SCC identifies barriers and develops statewide recommendations. Citizen Advisory Committee got hamstrung. Finance Committee was created to address those issues.
- There was a presentation at NHTA. Climate Change Committee presented thoughtful recommendations. DOT disregarded those recommendations. What commitment is there for departments to follow?
- Is there a mechanism to institutionalize the role of the SCC?
- Sönke, former chair of the SCC, started a grassroots group (Transportation Solutions NH) to educate people about the process. Businesses, service providers, advocacy groups present a sustainable, versatile transportation network to leaders.
- Candace Bouchard of the Finance Committee hears a lot about statewide need for public transit funding.
- Demands on RPCs have been numerous, but funding has stayed the same. Transit needs RPCs and vice versa. There is federal funding, but no state funding. COAST receives \$6,000 from NH for a \$3 million budget.
- There are more calls from Dover-Rochester area to get to Dartmouth-Hitchcock Hospital. Any private transportation providers in the area? NH Council on Churches.
- Donna Schlachman did an original study regarding Best Practices for Integrating Volunteer and Regional Transit. What are needs for region-wide volunteer program? Should we offer volunteers reimbursement? A pool of volunteers wants to see the program survive for more than ten years. They are paying it forward and don't want reimbursement.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, October 7th, 2009 from 1 PM to 2:30 PM at Community Partners.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Reynolds