

Alliance for Community Transportation (ACT)

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

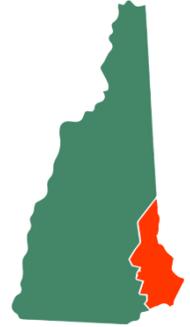
MEETING OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2021

9 – 10:30AM

REMOTE MEETING

Minutes



1) Introductions

Members Present: Colin Lentz (SRPC), Rad Nichols (COAST), Betty Smith (Ready Rides), Cheryl Robicheau (Strafford CAP), Fred Roberge (Easterseals Homemakers), Scott Bogle (Rockingham Planning Commission), Tahja Fulwider (Ready Rides), Debbie Perou (Rockingham Nutrition Meals on Wheels)

Staff Present: Jeff Donald (COAST)

Others Present: Shellie Lemelin (Granite State Independent Living Council),

2) Approval of Meeting November 4th Minutes {VOTE}

B. Smith made a motion to accept the minutes as written,

Seconded by F. Roberge

Vote: unanimous in favor via roll call vote

3) Updates and Statistics

J. Donald presented the most recent financial updates. The pandemic continues to depress ridership which reduces the amount of non-cash match available for FTA5310 funds. This requires more cash match to be used. Expenses are well under-budget. Ridership is recovering slowly across providers.

F. Roberge asked D. Perou how RNMOV clients were faring with the pandemic affecting ridership and close contact. D. Perou said people were still receiving meals at home and the RNMOV programs have mostly been able to adapt. Their meal centers are closed and many clients are avoiding all trips and relying on family and friends.

4) SFY22/23 5310 Application and Budget updates

J. Donald said ACT had received \$3,000 of CARES Act funds through Rochester's CDBG program. He said he had also applied for funds from Dover and Rochester's regular CDBG programs and Strafford County. He would be applying for funds from Rockingham county and NE Delta Dental. Wentworth-Douglass hospital's grant programs are frozen until further notice. J. Donald noted that the latest CARES Act release said grants would be 100% federal, without a requirement for local match.

J. Donald said the 5310 application from NH is delayed; it is expected to be released in January and due mid-February. He said it will be a two-year grant. J. Donald reminded members that NHDOT had approved Read Rides to operate for three months on a tiered trip rate since expenses had not decreased with ridership. He asked for input from members about putting the tiered trip rate in their 5310 application as a long-term solution. J. Donald explained the temporary tiered approach. If Ready Rides provided fewer than 50 trips, the rate was \$40 per trip; 51-100 trips, the rate was \$20; more than 100 trips, it was the standard

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KENSINGTON
KINGSTON
LEE
MADBURY
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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

rate of \$10. Members supported keeping the tired trip rate since trip volumes will continue to be low and overhead costs do not change with service level. Even if fewer people are riding, their needs are no less significant. Providers may need additional support to sustain service through the pandemic. R. Nichols suggested bringing up the subject at the next SCC meeting to include other providers who may be experiencing the same challenges and benefit from a flexible approach.

J. Donald said he was hopeful that ACT's grant from Tufts would be continued after Tufts merged with Harvard Pilgrim. He described a few other elements of the draft budget to be voted on in February. It is designed to sustain providers and services in a time of great uncertainty.

5) SCC Updates

J. Donald said he and F. Butler were working with state agencies and statewide mobility managers to find alternative funding sources to support additional regional mobility managers. The ACT region has great coordination, but other regions have limited resources and large areas to cover.

6) Information Exchange

R. Nichols said COAST had several live webinars (using MS Teams) coming up to demonstrate the proposed service changes.

Members discussed access to vaccines and the roll-out in New Hampshire.

7) Public Comment

No additional public comments were brought forward.

8) Adjournment

D. Perou made a motion to adjourn

Seconded by F. Roberge

Meeting adjourned at 10:20