

Alliance for Community Transportation (ACT)

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

MEETING OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 2021

9 – 10:30AM

REMOTE MEETING

Minutes



1. Introductions

Members Present: Colin Lentz (SRPC), Rad Nichols (COAST), Tahja Fulwider (Ready Rides), Cheryl Robicheau (Community Action Partnership of Strafford Co.), Fred Roberge (Easterseals Homemakers), Scott Bogle (Rockingham RPC), Tory Jennison (Region 6 Integrated Delivery Network), Sharon Reynolds (citizen member), Margie Longus (Ready Rides), Debbie Perou (Rockingham Nutrition Meals on Wheels), Betty Smith (Ready Rides)

Others Present: Jeff Donald (COAST), Pamela Becker (Community Partners),

2. Approval of January Meeting Minutes {VOTE}

B. Smith made a motion to approve the January minutes as written.

Seconded by F. Roberge

Vote: unanimous in favor via roll call vote

3. Approval of February Meeting Minutes {VOTE}

B. Smith made a motion to approve the February minutes as written.

Seconded by T. Jennison

Vote: Unanimous in favor

4. Updates

a. Monthly Financials

J. Donald presented the current budget and explained that the purchased transportation budget is underspent by 50% because of disruption from the pandemic. Section 5310 spending on administrative and TripLink costs are 14% over budget. The budget was developed with an assumption that it would be over-matched and the federal portion would be spent at closer to 70% than a 80% rate each month. For the second fiscal year, the budget would switch to more local match. It also assumed that state operating support would be available for matching mobility management. Those state funds were limited to matching 5307 funds. Other match sources were frozen because of the pandemic. At this point FTA 5307 funds from COAST will likely be used (at 80%) to make up for the reduced local funds.

J. Donald explained that fringe expenses are 18% underspent, but wages are 10% over, so overall expenses are only 2% under what was expected. Providers are under budget because of ridership impacts from COVID-19.

P. Becker asked if J. Donald had heard updates on the formation of Frisbie Memorial Hospital's foundation being developed after their merger. J. Donald said he hadn't heard anything recently.

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DOVER
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EPPING
EXETER
FARMINGTON
FREMONT
GREENLAND
HAMPTON
HAMPTON FALLS
KENSINGTON
KINGSTON
LEE
MADBURY
MIDDLETON
MILTON
NEW CASTLE
NEW DURHAM
NEWFIELDS
NEWINGTON
NEWMARKET
NEWTON
NORTH HAMPTON
NORTHWOOD
NOTTINGHAM
PORTSMOUTH
ROCHESTER
ROLLINSFORD
RYE
SEABROOK
SOMERSWORTH
SOUTH HAMPTON
STRAFFORD
STRATHAM
WAKEFIELD

b. TripLink Dashboard

J. Donald noted that most providers' ridership is still down, but coming up slightly; COAST is also trending up. Rockingham Nutrition MOW ridership shrunk the most because they were providing transportation to congregate meal that are still suspended.

5. SFY22 – 23 5310 Grant

J. Donald explained that the grant was submitted and he was expecting it to be approved by NHDOT. He noted that Ready Rides would now be using a tiered trip rate for the first year of the budget. He had been advocating for the tiered trip rate to NHDOT because it allowed more flexibility under the low ridership from the pandemic. If Ready Rides provided over 100 trips in a given month, they will use the standard \$10 rate. If they provide between 75-100 trips, the rate is \$20, and so on. J. Donald said the rate will revert back to the standard \$10 rate starting in July of 2022.

J. Donald said he had applied for a grant from Strafford Co. for \$5,000 and would be applying to Rockingham Co. for a similar amount.

6. SCC Updates

J. Donald said Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds were going to be available and would be matched with state toll credits, which would not require any local match. NHDOT asked for input from the SCC on how the funds should be allocated. He said the SCC would be discussing this and would be making a recommendation to NHDOT.

J. Donald said mobility managers were going to be meeting with TANF counselors, with the intention to improve coordination in the network.

7. Information Exchange

J. Donald noted that he had reached out to the Strafford County Public Health Network to see if the unspent 5310 funds (from low ridership) could be used to help get people with mobility challenges to their vaccinations. He said the idea had worked out well because people eligible for vaccines were seniors and so were also eligible for Community Rides service.

J. Donald said the National Aging and Disability Transportation Center had hosted a virtual engagement webinar and he would forward the recorded webinar when it became available.

Strafford CAP was participating in a regional effort to engage communities about planning for an aging population, called Communities for Healthy Aging Transitions (CHAT).

S. Bogle noted that RPC and SRPC had applied to NHDOT for funding to update the Regional Coordinated Plan. The application included a proposal to assess bicycle and pedestrian access at COAST bus stops. He added that RCC region 8/9 was working on expanding volunteer driver program coverage up the NH125 corridor in central Rockingham county. Catholic Charities (under the Caregivers organization) from the Manchester/Bedford area was interested in expanding and developing a pilot VDP program in the area. F. Roberge said the Catholic Charities is looking at expansion opportunities throughout the state and would be reaching out to RCCs.

Members discussed the process of coordinating with Catholic Charities and RCCs about their proposed expansion and incorporating it with existing service.

8. Public Comment

No public comments were brought forward to the board.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00am