

Alliance for Community Transportation (ACT)

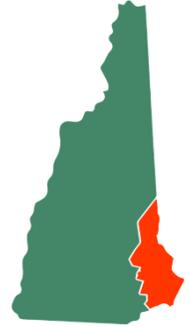
Working to expand affordable and efficient community transportation in southeastern New Hampshire

MEETING OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP WEDNESDAY, MAY 5, 2021

9 – 10:30AM

REMOTE MEETING

Minutes



Members Present: Colin Lentz (SRPC), Rad Nichols (COAST), Cheryl Robicheau (Community Action Partnership of Strafford County), Scott Bogle (Rockingham RPC), Betty Smith (Ready Rides), Tahja Fulwider (Ready Rides), Fred Roberge (Easterseals Homemakers),

Staff Present: Jeff Donald (COAST)

1. Introductions

2. Approval of March 2021 Meeting Minutes {VOTE}

B. Smith made a motion to approve the minutes as written.
Seconded by S. Bogle
Vote: unanimous in favor via roll call vote

3. Updates

J. Donald presented the latest TripLink dashboard. March showed a great recovery for the level of services being provided. He said he suspects ridership will continue to rise as more people get vaccinated and comfortable with being in vehicles with drivers.

J. Donald presented the monthly income statement. While wages and fringe expenses are normal, the revenue looks off because the budget was developed (pre-pandemic) under the assumption that more match would be available from the state. The additional funding had been allocated through the Ten Year Plan, but was frozen at the outset of the pandemic. This resulted in the budget being overspent on 5310 and underspent in local match.

4. Grant Updates

J. Donald said several local grants toward local match had just come through. First Seacoast Bank had donated \$4,000 without any requirements for how the funding should be spent. Strafford County is providing \$5,000. The City of Dover is providing \$4,000 through its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The City of Rochester denied an application for \$6,000 to its CDBG program. There is an application for \$4,000 to Rockingham County which is still being decided. The awarded funds are slightly more than the local match required under the current budget, so that gives ACT a small cushion.

5. Amendment to 5310 Trip Rates

J. Donald said the 5310 application is in process and reminded members that it included an adjusted trip rate for Rockingham Nutrition Meals on Wheels. D. Perou requested that the rate go from \$13.65 to \$14.19. J. Donald said the rate request was reviewed and approved by the ACT Executive Committee, but he had not heard back from NHDOT. He said he wanted to present it to

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DOVER
DURHAM
EAST KINGSTON
EPPING
EXETER
FARMINGTON
FREMONT
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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

the full ACT board. He noted that the request doesn't change the amount of funding for RNMoW in the budget, only how fast they draw it down.

F. Roberge asked if this was the first rate increase in a while and if J. Donald was satisfied with the budget analysis used to justify it.

J. Donald said it was the first rate change request for at least two years. The last time was when RNMoW transitioned to using some cash match. He said he agreed with the budget analysis.

S. Bogle made a motion to approve the trip rate change requested by Rockingham Nutrition Meals on Wheels. Seconded by B. Smith.

Vote: unanimous in favor via roll call vote.

6. SCC Updates

J. Donald said the funding levels for the State Transportation Block Grant had been set and region 10 would be receiving \$65,000 per year for SFY2022 and 2023. The funds just have to pass Governor and Council.

J. Donald said Fred Roberge would be stepping down as chair of the SCC in about one year and Van Chestnut would be stepping down as chair of the NH Transit Association.

Members discussed the future of mobility management and coordination with similar transitions in leadership.

7. Information Exchange

R. Nichols noted that COAST's project to update their administrative and maintenance facility had been submitted to Congressman Pappas for potential funding through recovery and infrastructure funding.

S. Bogle noted that two bills to update current laws around public meetings had recently been debated in the NH legislature. They both concerned expanding options for remote participation since virtual public meetings had been temporarily allowed during the pandemic under a state of emergency. One of the bills had failed and another was headed to review by the house in executive session. He said RPC had provided comment in support given that meeting participation had actually increased due to the availability of virtual attendance.

S. Bogle said there was a current provision tied to federal legislation under development that would require a CDL license for smaller buses as well as full sized buses. This would make it more difficult for smaller providers (such as Strafford CAP) to hire drivers for vehicles. The justification was to increase safety for passengers. Members discussed approaches to advocating against the proposal.

S. Bogle said AASHTO data for state spending on transit had recently been released. Since Maine spending on transit had increased, the data made New Hampshire's contribution to transit look even worse than previously.

8. Public Comment

No public comments were brought forward to the board.

9. Adjournment

B. Smith made a motion to adjourn

Seconded by S. Bogle

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