

Alliance for Community Transportation (ACT)

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

MEETING OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

WEDNESDAY, January 4, 2023

9 – 10:30 AM

In-Person Location: McConnell Center Room 305, Dover, NH

Meeting Minutes



1. Welcome and Introductions

Members Present In-Person:

Betty Smith (Ready Rides), Rad Nichols (COAST), Scott Bogle (Rockingham Planning Commission), Debbie Perou (Rockingham Nutrition Meals on Wheels), Cheryl Robicheau (Community Action Partnership of Strafford County), Colin Lentz (Strafford RPC)

Members attending virtually: Kate Sullivan (Community Partners), Pam Lowy (Great Bay Services), Sharon Reynolds (Citizen Member).

Staff Present: Jeff Donald

Others: Yusi Turell (Fellow at UNH institute on Disability)

Members acknowledged Debbie Perou's retirement after forty-four years at RNMOV and her incredible service to the region. R. Nichols read the following commendation:

Whereas: Debbie Perou retires after forty-four years of service to the people of Rockingham County and the State of New Hampshire;

And Whereas: She was hired in 1978 by a group of County Commissioners and state representatives to launch Rockingham Nutrition Meals On Wheels, she built Rockingham Nutrition Meals on Wheels from a small agency with a single vehicle, to become a cornerstone of the community that serves meals at eleven locations and operates four senior shuttles throughout the County;

And Whereas: She has spent countless hours in service to Rockingham County seniors, providing them meals, wellness checks, rides, and companionship;

And Whereas: she has served on many regional and state councils and committees, including the Alliance for community Transportation, Alliance for healthy Aging, and many others, she has served as a part of ACT for 10 years, and has been a member of ACT's Executive Committee for eight years;

And Whereas: she is a committed advocate for improving the region's transportation network, her willingness to move the scheduling of Rockingham Nutrition Meals on wheels senior shuttles to TripLink has improved older adults' access to transportation services and solidified TripLink's role as central to coordination in the ACT region;

And Whereas: she has spent her entire career striving to provide for the well-being of the region's older adults on behalf of Rockingham County Citizens;

Now Therefore: The Alliance for Community Transportation does hereby Recognize Debbie Perou for her forty-four years of service to the region and the State

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2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from November 2nd

B. Smith made a motion to accept the minutes as-written;
Seconded by C. Robicheau [unanimous in favor]

3. Updates and Stats

J. Donald provided statistics and updates – there was no discussion.

4. ACT Executive Committee Meeting Schedule

J. Donald presented options for rescheduling the regular ACT Executive Committee meeting. Members identified the third Tuesday from 3:30 – 5 PM as the ideal option.

5. FTA Section 5310 Application

J. Donald explained that originally the grant notice was supposed to be available in December but it is still not out so he hadn't been able to see what funding levels were going to be available for the next fiscal year. He and Rad had attended a training for the next grant cycle. J. Donald noted that the board would have to hold an off-cycle meeting to finalize the coordinated plan and 5310 application.

6. Miscellaneous

J. Donald explained that NHDOT had been in contact with ACT and COAST about more detailed monthly/annual reporting on transit services provided. He anticipated that additional reporting would be required over the next grant cycle.

7. Coordinated Plan Review

J. Donald explained that the Coordinated Plan was the core document establishing priorities for ACT and enabled ACT to access federal funds for transportation services. It needs to be updated at least every 5 years.

S. Bogle and C. Lentz reviewed chapters in the draft Coordinated Plan: Introduction, Demographics, Existing Services, Funding Sources, and Findings & Recommendations.

C. Lentz reviewed the regional demographics that inform analysis of service need. S. Bogle reviewed sections on existing services, funding sources, results from outreach, and findings.

Members discussed the data included in the plan and provided comments and input.

P. Lowry noted that Community Partners was no longer providing transportation services and that Great Bay services had purchased their vehicles. She said she would send an updated blurb for Chapter 5. C. Lentz noted that he was still working on updating the Medicaid enrollment data. S. Bogle reviewed the Findings and Recommendations section in detail. Findings: (need expanded service in some specific areas, limited service for those with low income that are not seniors or have a disability, information on services is not known to many residents. Recommendations: continue to support the RCC and TripLink, integrate volunteer software with scheduling software, review performance measures, advocate for consolidation of reporting requirements, expand outreach, advocate for expanded state funding for transit services.

S. Bogle noted that there would be a workshop specifically for reviewing the draft Coordinated Plan in the near future.

8. Adjourn

B. Smith made a motion to adjourn; seconded by C. Robicheau [unanimous in favor]