

Alliance for Community Transportation (ACT)

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

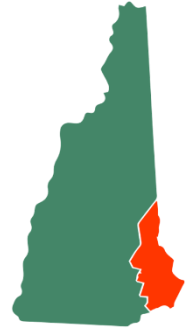
MEETING OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2024

9 – 10:30AM

McCONNELL CENTER, 61 LOCUST ST, ROOM 305 DOVER, NH

Minutes



Members in-person: Colin Lentz (Strafford Regional Planning Commission), Rad Nichols (COAST), Betty Smith (Ready Rides), Emelia Poehlman (NH Disability and Health Program), Scott Bogle (Rockingham Planning Commission), Mary Perry (Liberty Livery & Road Nannys), Cheryl Robicheau (Community Action Partnership of Strafford County), Yosita Thanjai (Seacoast Public Health Network), Tim Diaz (RNMOV)

Members Online: Kate Sullivan (Community Partners), Sharon Reynolds (citizen member)

Staff: Jeff Donald (COAST)

Others: Teri Palmer (Statewide Mobility Manager), Ken Hale (Gather)

1) Welcome & Introductions

Attendees introduced themselves.

2) Approval of November 1, 2023 Meeting Minutes {VOTE}

S. Reynolds made a motion to approve the minutes as written; seconded by C. Robicheau

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

3) Updates & Statistics

J. Donald updated members on ridership and financials.

Wages and fringe appear high because of COAST's annual buyout of accumulated paid time off. J. Donald explained to new members that the budget separates Mobility Management, purchased transportation, and local funds to show detail. Financials are progressing as expected.

J. Donald illustrated recent data in the Triplink Dashboard. Agencies' ridership numbers are still recovering from COVID, but are trending up consistently. He showed data comparing the last 4 Novembers. The common application dashboard showed 69 applicants (166 applications) in November 2023, which was the highest month yet. J. Donald explained that the Common Application now includes questions about race and ethnicity. He will put together Census data for the ACT region and determine if ACT is serving a representative sample of people in the region.

BARRINGTON
BRENTWOOD
BROOKFIELD
DOVER
DURHAM
EAST KINGSTON
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

4) Partner Update: Ken Hale (Gather)

Ken Hale described the mission and operations of Gather. They serve around 9,000 people per month through their Portsmouth food pantry and mobile markets. The pantry operates like a grocery store; people can “shop” for things they want as well as need. The pantry is membership-based; the mobile market is not because they’re able to target specific locations. Gather is based in Portsmouth, but mobile markets reach Somersworth and Rochester. K. Hale said they’re looking at Dover. He said 10-15% of members access the pantry via COAST fixed route. Gather coordinates with the NH Food Bank.

5) Outreach

J. Donald said he was moving forward with production of a travel training video about Route 7 on-demand in Exeter to show the process of scheduling and taking a ride on the route. He’s researching other examples in other states and agencies. J. Donald is also hoping to get funding to be able to get photos of services in the ACT region for marketing and use by members.

6) Statewide Updates

J Donald said development of the statewide bylaws being written by the SCC are still in progress. The SCC is meeting this week so he will have an update soon. The RCCs will have an opportunity to review the draft in the coming months.

J. Donald said he was continuing with statewide volunteer driver recruitment efforts.

There was a recent clarification from the IRS that that drivers who receive more than \$600 above the allowed \$0.14 per mile will be subject to federal taxes and need to be issued a 1099 by their agencies. This will likely make recruitment more difficult for VDPs that typical reimbursement drivers closer to the allowed business travel deduction.

J. Donald noted that the state SCC is getting ready to launch a statewide website. It will host a statewide transportation directory and will include individual pages for each RCC. J. Donald is working to figure out where ACT’s Common Application will continue to be hosted at CommunityRides.org or if it will be moved to COAST’s website.

J. Donald reminded members that there is a standing invitation from NHDOT to request trainings.

T. Palmer added that the future SCC website will include information about required trainings for drivers and other RCC staff through the RTAP program.

7) Information Exchange

R. Nichols explained that by mid-January, COAST will return to full-service levels on the fixed route system.

S. Bogle announced that FTA 5310 capital grants are due in mid-February. R. Nichols said COAST is available to work with members on an application, which will require a letter of support from ACT.

T. Palmer said there is a mandatory training on January 17th for providers responsible for tracking performance measures 1 and 2. J. Donald said he will attend on behalf all TripLink members since he does their reporting.

8) Miscellaneous

J. Donald showed the proposed ACT meeting schedule for FY2024-2025. There are alternative dates for holidays in July 2024, September 2024, and January 2025.

9) Adjournment

C. Robicheau made a motion to adjourn; seconded by B. Smith