

Minutes of October 12, 2021
Mid-State Regional Coordinating Council (RCC) Meeting
Horseshoe Pond Place - 26 Commercial Street - Concord, NH

Attendees	
Terri Paige, CAPBMCI	Tom Schamberg, Town of Wilmot (Chair)
Dean Williams, CNHRPC	Cindy Yanski, Mobility Manager (CAPBMCI)
Sara O'Dougherty, GSIL	Andrew Harmon
Tammy Carmichael, Partnership for Public Health	Molly Notkin, Gilford Community Church
Roger Vachon, NH Commission on Aging	Kristin Kostecki, VP Hillsborough County MOW
Rebecca Bryan, Lakes Region Community Services	Jane Alden, Town of Tilton
Donna Fanny, Future in Sight	

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair T. Schamberg called the meeting to order at 2:08pm. Everyone present, both in person and virtually, introduced themselves.

2. Review and approve the minutes of the July 13th RCC meeting

A motion was made to accept the minutes from the July 13th RCC meeting.

m/s/approved

R. Vachon/J. Alden

3. Mobility Manager Update

a. SFY 2021 FTA Section 5310 RCC Programs Updates

i. Rural Transit Service Expansion

C. Yanski Shared ridership figures for the Rural Transit Service, which now falls under the newly branded Mid-State Transit (MST), including overall ridership and a breakout of the 5310 expansion ridership which includes people with disabilities. Ridership has been steady since last spring. Cindy added that due to driver shortages, some routes have reduced frequency.

ii. Volunteer Driver Program (VDP)

Cindy continued to share VDP ridership and informed the RCC that all new riders are approved for both RTS and VDP under the MST program. She also shared more detailed information on MST ridership that noted the higher number of denials in the recent months. D. Williams asked if in the future the number of denials could also be shown as a percentage of total rides requested. Cindy pointed out that the VDP is only used for medical rides in areas where there is no MTS bus service. In areas without MST bus service, the VDP is also used for shopping and other high priority trip purposes.

T. Schamberg asked the members present who operate services that rely on volunteers and drivers to operate services to provide some feedback on the availability of drivers. In general, most agencies were having difficulty with driver shortages although some programs appeared to have adequate volunteers available. J. Alden noted that the Tilton senior bus has expanded services into Northfield and Sanbornton. T. Paige added that CAT is down two bus drivers and lacks two substitute drivers, while the MST is also down 2 drivers.

iii. Taxi Voucher Program

Cindy displayed the TVP ridership for Merrimack County Department of Corrections which continues to fluctuate. She noted that there have been instances where they were unable to meet the ride requests due to shortage of available taxis. Due to the limited availability of taxi service, there has been no progress on expanding the Taxi Voucher Program.

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b. Mobility Managers Report

Cindy reported that she has been very involved with the SCC's Mobility Manager Network that includes all of the Mobility Managers around the state. The MM network has also developed a statewide Peer to Peer Volunteer Driver Program network. The Peer to Peer Network meets quarterly to discuss topics and issues impacting volunteer driver programs around the state. A hot topic for all volunteer driver programs is volunteer recruitment. From these discussions, a partnership was formed with the NH Alliance for Healthy Aging and UNH and a subcommittee was created to assist VDPs with their recruitment efforts statewide with grant funding. Cindy is representing the Mid-State Region's volunteer driver programs on this NH VDP Statewide Outreach project/subcommittee. She has also been working on the development, publishing and distribution of the newly rebranded CAT and MST marketing and informational materials.

c. Commute Smart NH

Cindy added that she has been working closely with the CommuteSmartNH program including the upcoming fall challenge and assisting with the states procurement of Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Software. The TDM software that was selected is AgileMile which allows users to log sustainable (any other mode other than driving a single-occupancy vehicle) commuter trips to earn rewards, ride matching and trip planning tools to connect users to find all modes of transportation alternatives such as carpool or van pool matches and view all of the state's available transit. As the program develops Cindy hopes to get the demand response services included in the interface.

d. Lakes Region Planning Commission

Cindy explained that Lakes Region RPC has limited resources available to support the RCC so to best utilize their available time she would pass along any potential ideas or tasks to their staff.

4. Funding Updates

a. New Hampshire Mobility Manager Network

Cindy reported that she State Coordinating Council (SCC) is working with NHDOT and DHHS to meet their goal to have a MM in each RCC region as well as a statewide MM. Terri added that each RCC region is receiving \$50,000 each year for FY 2022 and FY 2023 in additional funding through NHDOT to fund the MM position which allows our region to free up existing funding for other uses. The adjustments to the 5310 budget was presented and approved at the last RCC meeting held on July 13 2021. The SCC approved the "Mobility Manager Network Blueprint For Implementation" at their last meeting on October 7. This blueprint defines the detailed plan for the MM Network including how each position is funded for the next two fiscal years, and the performance measures for all regional MM and the Statewide MM.

b. CDC Grant Funding – NH DHHS Regional Level Rural Transportation Equity Project

In addition to the \$50,000 from NHDOT, Terri explained how the NH Department of Health and Human Services through a grant from the CDC, has dedicated another \$530,000 each year for FY22 and FY23 for each rural region (including Region 3). \$70,000 of this funding is dedicated to funding each mobility manager position in each of the 5 rural regions. This brings each rural region mobility manager position budget to \$120,000 for the next two years to fund these positions across the state. NH DOT allocated additional funds for the urban regions so every MM position in the state has a \$120,000 budget. In addition, each lead agency in these rural regions through their RCC will receive \$530,000 in additional funding for to projects be used over the next 2 years. Terri expressed concerns with using the funding to start up or pilot services due to the lack of future funding to

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sustain any new services. The RCC agreed to have Cindy invite everyone to participate in a subcommittee to brainstorm potential projects to use the funding.

c. Merrimack County partnership

Terri reported that she, Cindy, Sara and Dean had met with Merrimack County administrators after their HR Administrator, and new member of the RCC, Bethany Cottell, had contacted Cindy regarding regional transportation services. The county has also received funding that they would like to use on transportation services over the next 5 years. The county emphasized serving those who are underserved or not currently served as well as improving access to transit along the US Route 3 and Interstate 89 corridors. Terri had provided them information on the cost of services and expects to hear back from them soon regarding next steps.

Any other business

As there was no other business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:15pm.

m/s/approved R. Vachon/J. Alden