

RCC Region 4 June 16, 2026

Candy calls meeting to order at 1:03

In attendance online: Barbara Farnsworth* (DHMC/Greater Sullivan Public Health Network), Angelique Pandolph (director of transportation Easter Seals NH), Kelly Nolan (RVCC)

In person: Austin Ford* (City of Claremont), Tim Josephson*, (UVSLRPC), Candy Reed (Regional Mobility Manager), Olivia Conway* (town of Newport), Elyse Crossman* (Greater Claremont Chamber of Commerce) (1:11 pm), Keith Thiebault (SCS) (1:25)

*voting

1. Introductions
2. Mobility Manager updates:
 - a. Sent out information ahead of time, included monthly MM survey. Lots of time spent on transportation, looking for grants, etc. Work with many of the SCC and other RCCs to put heads together and figure out how to meet the needs. In our area, Newport to New London is a big need – connecting to the Dartmouth Coach at the park and ride is key. Also access to the hospital in New London. Comes down to funding – this little section needs more reliable transportation (and therefore funding)
 - b. Another need on a regular basis: from Newport to the Park and Ride in Grantham. Then they can connect with other transportation to the Upper Valley. Looking to work on this over the next few months
 - i. Tim: I know the RPC did a study on a commuter bus on 89 in the past, I will send that to Candy
 - c. Barbara: for funding, do you think you'll see more from the rural health funding being directed to transportation? Tim: yes, they have said that transportation is a key part of the rural health funding initiative
 - i. Candy: Angelique, do you have more info? Yes, they are in the process of putting RFPs together. She thinks that November might be a realistic timeframe to see what those contracts would look like
 - d. Candy: time to re-do our MOUs, so we need to send those out again and have them re-signed
 - e. If you have not filled out your conflict of interest form, those are also needed
 - f. Candy went to a session called Making Connections, Becoming a Transportation Advocate (at Kilton Library in Leb). They will have another session (will share info). Great session interacting with people who had all sorts of needs and it was good to talk to people directly and find out their needs. Reps from AT and Tri-

Director of Planning and Development started in Claremont – comes from North Las Vegas and has brought a good energy to the office. North and Main Streets have been paved. Claremont applied for SS4A Broad St, Pleasant, Summer, and Main St. Working with the city manager to get sidewalk planning more into the future repairs and projects

- b. Olivia – new Planning and Zoning Admin in Newport, just received notice through the congressionally directed spending request, we are moving forward on the water line replacement project on Unity Rd. Also applied for a SS4A grant on Main St area, visible crosswalks, etc.
- c. Angelique – NHDOT is in the process of revising the Transit Asset Management Plan. If you have vehicles through NHDOT, this is the plan for oversight of that. They held open comments for feedback, Easter Seals shared that they'd like some guidance around what good repair is and how to make vehicles reach end of life. Definitions having more consistency. Used an RTAP news letter they recommend providers review to determine that score. Align language in the plan with the other language in the RTAP newsletter and suggesting that providing service in NH (given our climate and weather) that things like brakes and AC would be more preventative maintenance/minor maintenance rather than major. Submit feedback to Fred or Kathy at NHDOT
 - i. Second thing: if you are a transportation provider you may be familiar with Title VI plans, they did a training in April for providers to update their census info to make sure their Title VI plans are up to date. All this on the NH RTAP website. Plans should be updated in June/July.
 - ii. SCC goal 1: increasing communication between SCC and RCCs – we are working on piloting the executive summary that we send out to the RCCs with the Nashua RCC to make it an accessible document and see how it goes to improve communication. Successes, challenges, unmet needs in the region, etc. Hope is that this will be beneficial in both directions (for RCCs and SCCs). All of this will be on Keep NH Moving website
- d. James – we submitted our Title VI update, it was approved and it's off to our board for approval. We are reviewing our buses for the TAM Plan, we have 2 coming this summer and 2 more buses coming next year. At that time, all our buses will be in new condition. The TAM plan does work – we kept one of our buses as a spare but once we get the new ones we'll sell that one off. Also, we are federally funded and we get a match from NHDOT but we need a local match – we are looking for people to put ads on our buses. We are building a new facility in Newport soon, and that needs money, and a lot of our regular funders are seeing cutbacks from the County or from municipalities. At SCT, we have 2

new drivers on the road, and a backup dispatcher in the works. Small office – myself and 2 dispatchers. WE have a driver with dispatch experience, and we added a new volunteer driver to bring our total to 7. Please send people our way! Candy: I have packets here at this meeting and we'll send it out for the bus advertising. Right now looking for ads for Claremont and Newport, and as we get new buses that go to Lebanon we will look there too. James: the new buses coming in July/August – one will be on Charlestown route and one on the Lebanon route, so we need ads for all our routes. Elyse: is there a magic number of an ideal number of volunteer drivers? Or is it X amount of hours per week for volunteer drivers? Is there a benchmark we can look to? Candy: before COVID we had 17 volunteer drivers. So somewhere between 12-15 would be good. James: we could use as many as 33 volunteer drivers – we could never have enough, but yeah 10-15 drivers

- e. Angelique: ABLE NH is doing a Lunch and Learn on ADA Complementary Paratransit this Friday 6/19 from 12-1pm. Share the info!
- f. Keith – one update, last month at Newport Town Meeting, voters approved the SCT request for the match money. Close vote, but we did a good job getting the word out to the community and next year, once we know the place on the warrant, get a little more push (vote yes on 22, etc). Secondly, next week the Claremont City council meets and we will present the match request to them at that time. Our bus advertising goes towards our match, and we're trying to diversify our funding sources to raise the match and not just count on local communities and be competing with other much needed projects across our communities, but we are sort of forced into doing this, it would be nice if the state funding would help with this match. New buses allow us to advertise on our buses and that should bring more revenue. It's never a one-off, it has to keep going every year for donations and it takes a lot of organizational stamina.
- g. Old business – nominations for RCC chair and vice chair. Asked for nominations and haven't gotten any yet. Let's make sure we get people lined up in the next month
- h. New Business – anything you'd like Candy to look into? Along with transportation, she sits on multiple other committees/work groups. On 2 Rotaries in Claremont and Newport, but Newport is down to 4 people. Claremont Rotary will be meeting soon and she's going to do a presentation to them. Elyse – you should talk to the people who opened up their businesses Barns Wellness Cetner and New Life Consignment – same building as One Stop Postal Center. Try them for advertising. Tim: for new members, let's chat with Sullivan County

- i. Next meeting 8/18. Taralyn will be joining us and talking about the new food processing hub getting started at the Sullivan County Campus.

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