

Sullivan County Region 4 RCC meeting 4-21-26

In attendance online: Teri Palmer* (AT), Lindsey Carbee* (West Central Behavioral Health), Barbara Farnsworth* (DHMC/Greater Sullivan Public Health Network), Kelly Nolan* (RVCC), Keith Thibeault (SCT), Fred Butler (NHDOT), James Berquist (SCT), Jen Blodgett (Aging and Disability Resources Center of Sullivan County in Charlestown)

In person: Austin Ford* (City of Claremont), Tim Josephson* (UVSLRPC), Candy Reed (Regional Mobility Manager), Charles Lewis (guest, member of SCC), Jacobo Montobbio* (Vital Commnuities), Olivia Conway* (town of Newport), Elyse Crossman* (Greater Claremont Chamber of Commerce) (1:28 pm)

Welcome and Introductions --

Mobility Manager Update – Candy gave an update, CCTV in Claremont has been running an public service ad about Sullivan County Transportation and taking the bus in the Claremont/Newport area. Trouble connecting with Newport's TV. Commute Smart on KeepNHMoving is a vital resource for transportation to help people get rides in NH and beyond. You can connect with other people who need rides and offer rides – a great way to keep transportation moving

May is National Bike Month – Candy will send out events that are happening across the state and hopes to connect with Rob Walker and to see if there's anything people are interested in bringing to Claremont

Cornish Elementary and Hanover will have events (Jacobo)

Conflict of interest form – we are required to have one on file, please fill it out and email it back to Candy/fill it out here and leave it

Candy has been participating in AbleNH Lunch and Learn – very informative, info on their website. Included info in the packet on recent lunches with the links to learn yourself. Did one on the RCC/SCC and one on KeepNHMoving. All the RCC meeting minutes are on KeepNHMoving for each region as well as all the SCC meetings and minutes. Great way to learn about all the different modes of transportation in NH.

Trip Priority Survey – Fred Butler – important to participate in this survey for the region. This survey helps them determine where to direct funding and to see what's currently being done and let the RCCs share best practices. Most questions are about trip types and who should have priority over others with limited funding available.

Rural Health Transportation grant – Shelley Winters (Deputy Commissioner NHDOT) will be talking about this in early May.

Fred also said that 5310 Funding will come in at 104% in FY27 (Check the chat)

Partner Updates:

Austin – new business development specialist starting Monday so their communication will get back on track from the City of Claremont.

Jacobo – events in NH for bike month, campaign called Ways to Go to promote alternative transportation with events in Lebanon, Hanover, Hartford. In Lebanon they are combining with a Walk/Bike/Roll to school to coordinate with the school district. Lots of events – will share the list. Interested in pushing more CommuteSmartNH to help promote it, maybe a kickoff event in the region to help with it. Lebanon is doing their own initiative for commuting independently of CommuteSmartNH. CSNH gathers good data – CO2 saved, miles, etc to monetize the cost of running a car. Also, they received funding to run senior citizen transportation training in Sullivan County in the Senior Centers. Currently coming up with a plan to schedule out more. Workshops include things like How to Advocate for Transportation, how to use existing transportation networks, how to transition to other transportation, etc.

Olivia – Unity Rd well extension, North Newport, planning grant from NBRC to extend the Rail Trail to the Newport Chamber of Commerce's new tourist info center (old depot). Updates on housing: additional workforce housing (same company at Woolen Mills site) is going in now on Cross St.

Tim – Sunapee demo project – traffic calming demonstration being organized in Sunapee for early June, HHW collections happening in the region starting in May

Keith – open to bids for their Transit Facility project now, more to report soon on that. Also there is a hearing for match funding from the City of Claremont, this is coming up in May, he will share that info out when it will come to the Council.

Jen Blodgett – holding seminars will be posting to social media and in the newspapers but ask for pre-registration

Barbara – public health network – this Saturday is Drug takeback day (new London hospital, downtown Claremont, Newport health center) – you can do this any time at your local PD but one day events are helpful to remind people. From the DH side, we are working with DHHS on a launch of a closed-loop referral system. UniteUs – Unitis? Unitus? DH is the pilot and all non-profits can join the platform. Targeted to orgs doing referrals to other non-profits. i.e. if you have a client who you know needs baby equipment, they can reach out through this portal and find someone who can help. Connecting the dots and referring community members to other

orgs and ensure that there will be follow up. 6/3 sullivan county public health advisory meeting (insert barbara's email address here) reach out to her for more information

Jen said that ADRC is piloting Uniteus)

Kelly – our graduating class is coming up from RVCC – 5/15 is graduation

James – training two new drivers. Lost Les St. Pierre to full retirement now. Also, for every grant we get through FTA, we have to come up with local match money, one way is through local town support, but we are looking for advertising on the buses. Many of the orgs and towns that normally assist us are cutting back, so we are reaching out to businesses and have had some success, but we need to be creative for how to raise funds to get the match.

Candy – this is important, wraps on the buses are handy and good advertising for the businesses and a good return on investment. Newport and Claremont buses at this time because they are the newest buses and we will be receiving new buses for other routes down the road. Two new buses coming in July, one for Lebanon and one for Charlestown.

Lindsey – nothing specific, but we are incredibly optimistic about our new building and breaking ground in Claremont. For the first time in a long time our building is at capacity but we are recruiting for more roles. We currently do not have an adult waiting list as well.

Elyse – no updates today

Teri – AT is starting the outreach season with some events planned, ridership on the Brown Route (Norwich) and starting a campaign to showcase that we are going to reach a million riders this year. With the current fiscal landscape, we are going to remain status quo for the rest of this fiscal year. Focusing on our transit development plan and see if any expansion plans come out of that. Committees made up of different committees made up of board members and directs for FY27. Hot topic is microtransit and adding another bus to Saturday service. Also, we have a few shelter projects we are going to get started. We are getting funding for automated stop announcements on buses.

New Business

Teri for the RCC/SCC Executive Summary – graphic and template for RCCs. Compiled all the meeting minutes across the state and found that most meetings had 4 topics: Mobility Management, Operations, Governance, and Finance. This framework provides each RCC meeting with a guide for how to structure.

Executive Summary is a copy/paste from the minutes of discussions, decisions and votes; open issues/challenges; successes; SCC Inquiries; etc

Candy – time for us to vote for a new chair and vice chair. If there are any suggestions, please let us know. Elyse has done a great job to help lead this but with the many hats she wears, she needs to step back. Vice chair is needed as well.

SCC Annual Meeting is coming up June 4th and registration should be opening in early May.

Tim moved to approve the minutes of 2/17/26 with the correction to the date on the title, Austin seconded. Approved

Candy – talked to a mother of a paraplegic who had an accident at age 17. His van has been ineffective for 5 years, Lundgren Subaru had it towed to their garage and found it is not repairable. There is a team of 5 at Lundgren working with her trying to find help for this individual. Going to search for a used van and Candy is looking for grants for the lift kit to be put in. Any suggestions or anything else, please reach out to Candy. Lundgren also offered to help with a fundraiser. This guy has not left home in 5 years other than by ambulance to get to his medical appointments.

Tim moves to adjourn at 1:56, Austin seconded, **Adjourned at 1:56pm**