

Sullivan County Region 4 RCC meeting 08-18-26

In attendance online: Teri Palmer (NHTA)*, Barbara Farnsworth* (DHMC/Greater Sullivan Public Health Network), Jim Berquist (Sullivan County Transportation), Paula Devens (NH DOT)

In person: Austin Ford* (City of Claremont), * (UVSLRPC), Candy Reed (Regional Mobility Manager), Charles Lewis, Jacopo Montobbio* (Vital Communities), Olivia Conway* (town of Newport), Elyse Crossman* (Greater Claremont Chamber of Commerce) (1:28 pm) Taralyn Baliski* (DHMC/Greater Sullivan Public Health Network), Kieth Thiebault (SCS),

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Austin moves to approve 6-16-2026 minutes

John seconds

Motion carries

John moves to approve 4-21-2026

Austin seconds

Motion carries

Austin moves to approve 10-21-2025

John seconds

Motion carries

John moves to approve 08-19-2025

Austin seconds

Motion carries

Guest Presentation from Taralyn Baliski on Sullivan County Campus Food Processing Hub:

Taralyn presented on new opportunity in Sullivan County that provides food processing services such as nut oil processing and food dehydration as well as cooking classes. Processing Hub received community contributions from DHMCs community benefit program. Will plan to start operations around October. Looking to hire somebody to manage the food processing hub. The county just needs to raise funds for maintenance, so any fees associated with it will be small. This service is open to the public and any New Hampshire resident can use it.

Jim had a question about food safe certification. You do not need to be food safe certified to use the hub. Farmers and other users will be able to use this hub to prepare foods for market (e.g., sell directly at farmers market or delivered to a grocery store).

Kieth wondered if there could be marketing services for users available. Taralyn will ask.

Austin will make connections between the Hub and the city of Claremont.

Mobility Manager Updates:

Candy sent out the proposed realignment of RCC boundaries. Region #4 should not be affected.

Candy share information about an app "Scalate" – app allows a person to connect with rides.

Taralyn advised to check with an provider to make sure that they serve rural locations.

Candy is also nearly done with a welcome packet for the RCC – will provide a draft once that is completed. Candy is also working on a map of resources for the City of Claremont.

Community transportation month is in October. If anybody has ideas to celebrate let Candy know. Let Candy know ASAP and she will work with James and Teri Curtis at Sullivan County Transportation.

Paula mentioned that the state mobility manager position has been posted and they are likely conducting interviews.

Partner Updates:

James announced that Sullivan County Transportation received two new buses: the Lebanon bus and the Newport bus

Teri mentioned that New Hampshire Transit Association is still holding monthly meetings. New Hampshire will be hosting the Tri-state conference this year. There will also be a few surveys sent out related to community transportation month. There will be a focus on National Week Without Driving. Even if you can't do week without driving it is still worth signing up and explaining why because Complete Streets keeps track of those metrics. Teri is also working with the SCC on goals to encourage coordination between the SCC and RCCs.

Austin announced that he is moving away from the City of Claremont. We will need to select a new chair.

Jacopo and Vital Communities have been looking into promoting Week Without Driving and was interested in where to get resources on this. Teri will share resources such as templates via email. Jacopo is interested in connecting with elected officials. Elyse could assist in the coordination with schools since that is at the same time as bike/walk to school.

Jacopo mentioned the Safe Routes to School program. You can register schools with Safe Routes to School platform. Vital Communities ran these events in Lebanon and Hanover and happy to help in any efforts. Bike Walk Alliance of NH could help with this as well.

New Business

Need to vote for a new Chair and Vice Chair. Interested volunteers should contact Candy.

Next meeting date is December 15th at 1pm

Elyse moves to adjourn, Austin seconded, **Adjourned at 1:49pm**