

Region 4 RCC meeting Dec 16

at SCS Offices, 96 Main Street, Claremont, NH

Online: Teri Palmer (Statewide Mobility Manager), Barbara Farnsworth (DHMC) Fred Butler (NH DOT), Taralyn Bielaski, Southwest Community Services

In person: John Haffner (UVLSRPC), Tim Josephson* (UVLSRPC), Austin Ford (City of Claremont), Candy Reed (Region 4 Mobility Manager), Miranda Dupre* (Vital Communities), Olivia Conway (Town of Newport), Jacopo Montobio, Charles Lewis (NH Dept of Ed), Jim Contois* (citizen), Annie Stead (City of Claremont)

*Voting member

Meeting was called to order at 1:01pm

No quorum, this meeting is informational only.

Minutes from August and October

Tabled

MOU update

Need: Vital Communities; City of Claremont; Town of Newport

Mobility Manager Update

Candy attended a Reasonable accommodation workshop with NH DOT. Relates to previous conversations regarding roles as mobility managers and drivers in assisting riders (ex: person requiring additional help lifting legs into a volunteer driver vehicle). Worked w/ passenger to get familiar with bus system. Still challenges in getting people to medical appointments such as surgeries. Recommended this person take a friend with them on the bus. Still working with them. Another example included helping people accessing fare payments from their persons (e.g., pockets). A system could, however, be put in place that goes above and beyond ADA compliance to offer that kind of assistance. Final example: client that needed to get to an appointment could only get there by lying down. There is a policy that does not allow for a person to be in a prone position.

Jim: It's rare for a person to not require assistance to get in and out of the car. Drivers are not covered under SCS insurance but our own insurance. We do go above and beyond at times.

Candy: Understand that. Another difference is door-to-door service vs curbside service. Our volunteer driver program is door-to-door.

Fred: New preferred term is origin-to-destination. FTA is often specifically vague by intention.

Candy: Attended RTAP (Rural Transportation Assistance Program) conference in Austin, TX.

Candy attended workshops on flex route versus fixed route. Also “transit’s role in disaster response.” Plan to get in touch with municipalities on emergency preparedness.

Tim: RPCs work on that. Will support these efforts.

Austin: Can connect you with Claremont’s emergency preparedness staff.

Candy: Other workshops included meeting transportation gaps (e.g., Newport to New London), food distribution, and next steps and future directions for mobility managers.

Miranda: Tri-valley transit is taking advantage of State funding on the Vermont side to recruit volunteer driver programs.

Charles: What are the requirements for volunteer drivers?

Teri: Need complete insurance coverage (collision and liability); clean driving record, pass background check.

Fred: They are also provided with a driver stipend. But if they take that stipend, they are part of the random drug and alcohol testing.

Statewide Mobility Manager Update

Teri: Hoping to compile resources from RTAP to share. Community Transportation Needs Assessment is wrapping up. Going to the Commission on Aging first. New Hampshire Transit Association has a marketing committee that is looking into how to help promote the rural agencies. Working on planning for that for next year. Hoping to use Keep NH moving. Also working with the Maternal Health Task Force. Transportation is becoming a big topic.

Annie: Any of the governor’s efficiency measures impacting transportation.

Teri: A lot of stuff is changing due to Medicaid funding.

Claremont Representatives

Annie: Background and experience in economic development and growth. A lot of work has been done in Claremont on the economic development side. Going to put all this work together to share the whole story. Do public engagement around the positive “Claremont story”. Also putting together a “Celebrate Claremont” in May. Would be great to get mobility management support on that day. Investors and developers are coming to the office and interest in contribute to economic development in Claremont.

Austin: Currently going through zoning reforms and re-writes. Trying to modernize zoning to increase housing stock and its quality. Wanting to bring transportation into this process (e.g. bike and pedestrian infrastructure). Wanting to bring this all into the conversations that Annie has been having with developers. Joined, as a member, the Traffic Advisory Committee. Hoping to install more rapid-flashing beacons. Another area is network strengthening. We have air, rail, transit networks, and a lot of ways to strengthen. Updated hazard mitigation and emergency preparedness plan.

Teri: Another point to emergency management is that in the instance of a need for evacuation in rural areas, we would need transit and volunteer drivers to do that.

Annie: Happy to advocate for what volunteer drivers within city government.

Fiscal Updates

Candy: Mobility management financial statement provided.

Info Included

Candy: Provided info in email on NH's "White Cane Law".

Taralyn: Want to share with public health's newsletter. There were a lot of things related to the law that I didn't understand.

Candy: Also shared some information from the organization "Future In-Sights". They were helpful with a client in Charlestown.

Member Updates

Tim: Safety improvement projects happening. One in Sunapee in George's Mill. Working also on a demonstration project on traffic calming in downtown Sunapee early June (bump outs, etc...).

Taralyn: Just a reminder that I'm unable to be a voting member, but will still try to attend when I can.

Meeting adjourned at 2:15