

CONSOLIDATED MANCHESTER/ DERRY-SALEM [R8] REGIONAL COORDINATION COUNCIL

TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2024

SOUTHERN NH PLANNING COMMISSION/ZOOM

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDEES

Mike Whitten, Chair – MTA	Amanda Sears – Deerfield
Tim Diaz – Rock. Nutrition Meals on Wheels*	George Sioras – Derry
Jocelyn Gallant – Citizen Member (Salem)*	Tracey Whitehead – CART
Ben Herbert – R8 Mobility Manager	James Wilkie – CareGivers
Ted Houlihan – Atkinson	John Wilson – Citizen Member (Londonderry)
Jack Hutchinson – Deerfield	Scott Bogle – RPC
Lisa Ludwigsen – Easterseals NH	Sylvia von Aulock – SNHPC
Joy Onosigho – Moral Care	Adam Hlasny – SNHPC
Angelique Pandolph – Easterseals NH	

**attended virtually*

1. Call to Order

Chair Mike Whitten called the meeting to order at 12:30 PM.

2. Action on Minutes of March 19, 2024

Motion by Scott to approve minutes, seconded by Angelique and carried unanimously.

3. Bylaws/Conflict of Interest Policy

Motion by George to approve bylaws and COI policy, seconded by Angelique and carried unanimously.

4. Updates

FTA 5310

In Nate's absence, this item was tabled.

Extended Derry Service Subcommittee

Chair Whitten reported that nothing had been finalized after subcommittee meetings. Ridership data shows more demand on weekdays than weekends. One option would be to mirror Salem's Shopper Shuttle format to attempt to concentrate demand. There is enough year 1 funding to carry over some into year 2.

Scott noted that continuing the service's format into September 2024 would be useful to analyze summer ridership trends/compare them to summer 2023. In the meantime, the MTA and Derry reps will develop several options for best use of the expanded service funding. Options will be reviewed at the July 16 RCC meeting. During the process, RCC will share with NHDOT on potential redeployment to a current subrecipient.

Mobility Management

Ben updated the RCC on his most recent metrics, as well as the ongoing survey work in Weare.

5. Regional Service Discussion

There was a lengthy discussion about potential new service in Deerfield, Plaistow, and Weare.

- Angelique and Lisa said that Easterseals does not currently have the resources to expand into additional towns.
- MTA also said they had staffing issues and currently could not serve either Deerfield or Weare.
- James said that while he would consider expansion, Catholic Charities' COO is hesitant due to the difficulty of finding volunteers in the Lakes Region after beginning to expand there.
- Jack gave some background on Deerfield's Age-Friendly program, and the importance of getting a transportation option set up ASAP. After much research, Ready Rides seems like the right model. Volunteers are lined up, and match funds can be raised locally. Coordinating 5310 funding from multiple regions could be the next step, as there is precedent for such coordination. He was concerned with the service limitations of both Caregivers and MOW. Caregivers has an income threshold while MOWs service limitations are related to scheduling and destination communities in that they do not include all the locations Deerfield residents are traveling to. They also do not want a Shopper Shuttle. Jack shared that medical appointments are the priority with destinations to Concord, Exeter, Manchester, Dover, Derry, and other medical hubs.
- Tim said he would be interested in what kind of funding might be available for potential service expansion.
- Scott said that there is interest in restoring some level of service in Plaistow. He collaborated with Plaistow's welfare officer Lori Sadewicz last fall on a senior transportation survey, which may lead to a 6-month pilot program (\$3500 town match). Salem Caregivers' board seems open to resuming Plaistow service after cutting 5-6 years ago. Scott also shared that Salem Caregivers is not prepared to address some of the issues they had in the past with getting 5310 funding (audit).
- Sylvia said that moving forward, one option could be for Ready Rides to begin attending R8 RCC meetings in preparation for becoming a new subrecipient for the FY26-27 5310 contract. Scott added that perhaps Nate could work with Jeff Donald to figure out a joint oversight arrangement.
- There was a brief discussion of Weare's transportation needs. While there is interest in forming a VDP, it is unlikely the town would commit any match funds. Nearby existing VDPs seem reluctant to expand.
- John Wilson suggested that the RCC develop a process on how to bring in new service providers. The group discussed the idea of a process.
- Chair Whitten reiterated that no current 5310 provider has the capacity to expand to new towns on 7/1/24. Scott said that the RCC will reevaluate Derry ridership numbers before making a recommendation for a potential October redeployment of funds.

6. Next Meeting

The next RCC meeting will be held on July 16, 2024, at 12:30pm.

Motion to adjourn by Scott, seconded by George. Meeting stood adjourned at 1:56 PM.