

REGION 8 REVIEW

Official Newsletter of the **Southern New Hampshire Regional Coordinating Council for Community Transportation**

Ben Herbert | Regional Mobility Manager, Region 8



KeepNHMoving.com is Officially Live!

Check out New Hampshire's Brand-New Website for All Transportation Services Across the State.



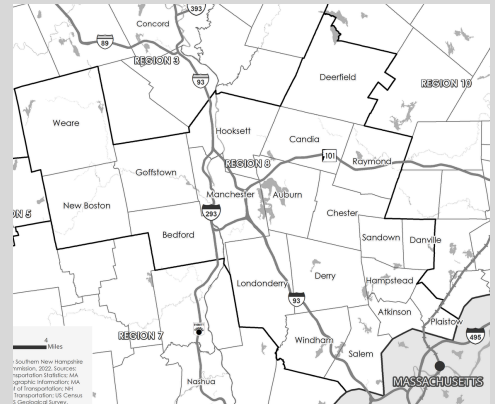
Keep New Hampshire Moving is the official website and resource directory for all transportation services available throughout the state. This project is the capstone of the newly formed mobility management network and is a significant step towards achieving a statewide coordinated system of community transportation in New Hampshire.

This website allows you to

- Find transportation available in your community.
- Learn about your mobility manager and regional coordinating council.
- Get involved in building a transportation network that meets everyone's needs.
- And more!

To visit this brand-new exciting website, visit www.KeepNHMoving.com.

PROVIDERS



Atkinson Elder Services

CART

The CareGivers

Community Caregivers of Greater Derry

Easterseals NH

Greater Salem Caregivers

Meals on Wheels of Hillsborough County

Manchester Transit Authority

Rockingham Nutrition and Meals on Wheels

Sandown Senior Affairs Transportation Program

2024 WEARE TRANSPORTATION NEEDS SURVEY: KEY FINDINGS

On behalf of the Hand in Hand Senior Center, Region 8 Mobility Manager, Town of Weare, and Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission, we thank all of you who participated in Weare’s transportation needs



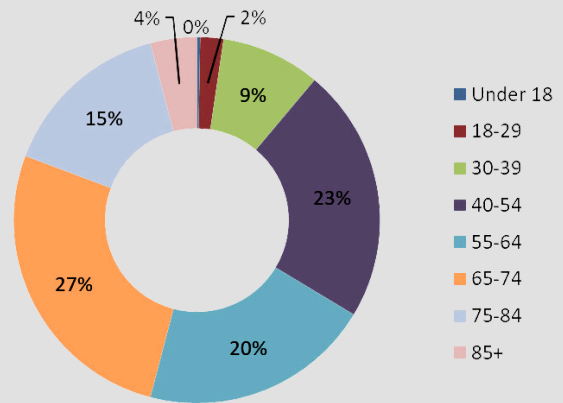
survey. This is a crucial first step in understanding the transportation needs in the town of Weare, and we couldn’t have done it without you! Check out these key findings from the survey!

The survey had a total of **346** responses.

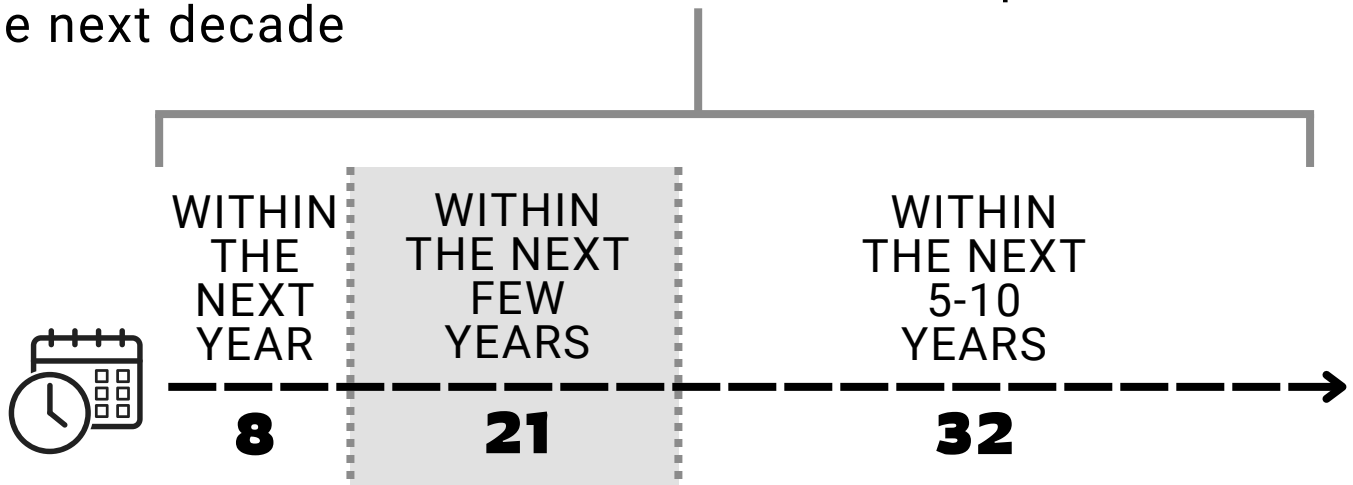
When we break down the respondents by age demographics,

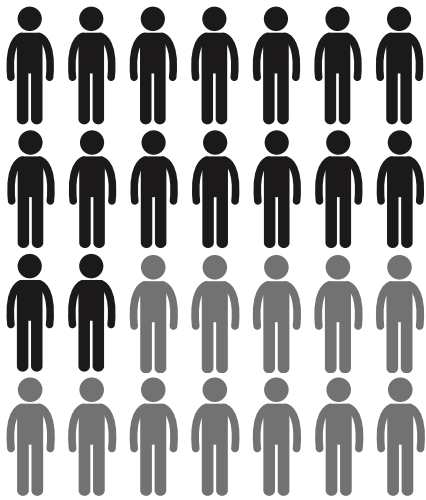
46% were 65 years or older

54% were under 65 years



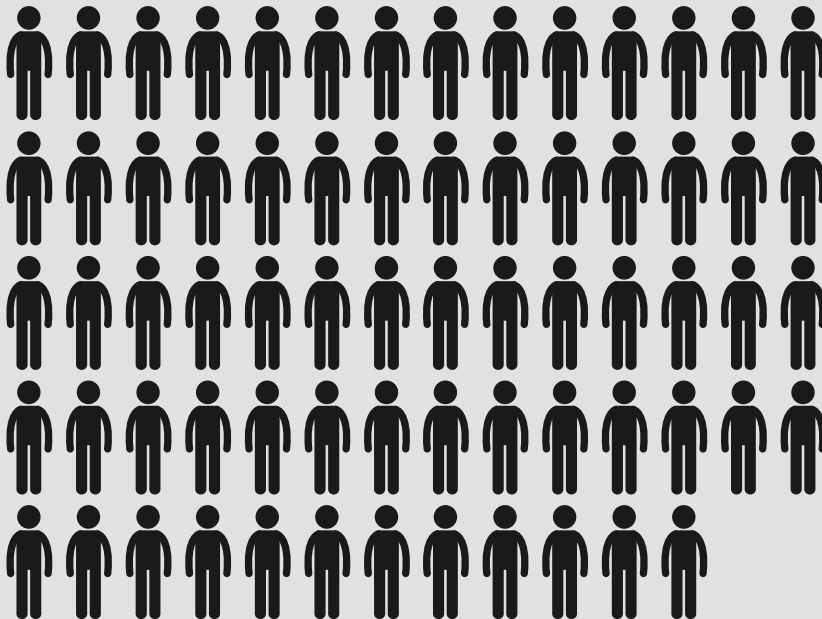
We asked respondents if they anticipate not being able to drive in the future, and **61 PEOPLE** anticipate this within the next decade





28 people indicated that they struggle to get to where they need to go.

Out of the 28 who struggle, **43%** were under the age of 65



68 people indicated that they know someone in Weare who struggles.

That's **19%**, nearly **ONE IN FIVE** survey respondents

A volunteer driver program had the highest support amongst survey respondents, at **90%**.

60 PEOPLE, or **18%**, would use a VDP to get to where they need to go



97 PEOPLE said they see themselves volunteering to provide rides



WHERE CAN I VIEW THE FULL REPORT?

To view the full report on the survey results, visit <http://bit.ly/3KxpWQo>

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

The same team of individuals will be working together to seek out an existing VDP who is willing to expand their boundaries into Weare. If that is not feasible, we will be researching the process in creating a VDP for Weare residents. Updates will be shared with the Weare Board of Selectmen hopefully by the end of August.

A TRIP TO THE BEACH WITH VICTORY WOMEN OF VISION



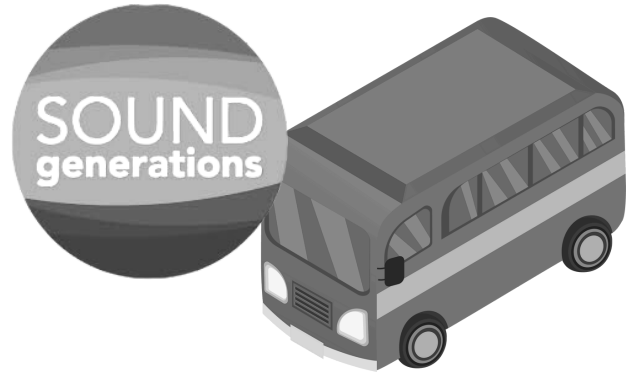
This summer, we partnered with the great people of **Manchester Transit Authority** and **Victory Women of Vision** to bring the elders out to Hampton Beach using **MTA's seasonal Hampton Express bus route**.

The Hampton Express runs out to the beach once a month every summer, and fares are only \$5 round-trip. As part of our ongoing transportation initiative, we utilized this opportunity to organize an event where the elders at VWV would ride the bus to the beach, with many of us awaiting them with chairs, umbrellas, and snacks.

The event was a big success. 19 people participated and had a great time. One mentioned that she has lived in Manchester for 20 years, and this was her first time coming to the beach.

VWV staff called it an “unforgettable day, summer, and year,” and said it helped open another door towards independence.

RIDES & SMILES OF EASTERN SEATTLE: A SUCCESS STORY



This summer, the Community Transportation Association of America held its annual Mobility Management Forum in Florida, where we learned about all the great work happening throughout the nation. An example of this is the Rides and Smiles pilot project in Washington.

“Rides and Smiles” is a pilot project developed by Sound Generations in Seattle, Washington. The pilot project was created to enhance the mobility of older adults and people with disabilities residing in the east side of Seattle, specifically in the cities of Kirkland, Redmond and Bellevue. Residents of this area were historically underserved in terms of paratransit and demand-response service.

EASTERN SEATTLE DEMOGRAPHICS



319,000 people live in the cities of Kirkland, Redmond, and Bellevue.

14% of the population are aged 65 or older.

41% of the population were born in over 90 different countries.

44% of the population speak a language other than English at home.

About 13% of all households headed by someone age 65 or older did not have a vehicle and **39%** of renter households headed by someone age 65 or older did not have a vehicle.

After meeting with focus groups and stakeholders to address these needs, the next efforts were taken with a key focus question in mind: **“How might we meet culturally appropriate transportation needs, including the need for spontaneous trips, and address social isolation among the most impacted older adults in Kirkland, Redmond and Bellevue?”**

This led to the development of the Rides and Smiles pilot project, operating with these key design and concept elements:

Affordable, door-to-door transportation.

Same day reservations made online, by phone, and in multiple languages .

Serves older adults and individuals with disabilities.

Vehicles can accommodate all mobility devices.

Rides to any destination within the three cities, plus other essential locations.

Compassionate staff trained to work with seniors and non-English speakers

The project was also developed through a partnership with the National Center for Mobility Management, Indian American Community Services, Jewish Family Services, and Chinese Information and Service Center.



JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE



The pilot project ran from October 2022 to June 2023. In those nine months, Rides and Smiles served **165 new clients**, provided **1,326 one-way trips**, and **denied less than 2% of all trip requests**.

The project was deemed a major success, **and secured funding to operate an additional two years**. The impact Rides and Smiles had on the community includes:

- Reduced social isolation among older adults, especially people with low incomes, new immigrants, and people of color.
- Permits aging in place and continuation of independent lifestyle.
- Built trust in culturally intelligent transportation service.
- Partnerships with community based organizations which strengthened ridership.

Visit <https://soundgenerations.org/> to learn more about the great work they do!

ABOUT THE REGION

The Region 8 Coordinating Council serves 350,000+ New Hampshireites throughout areas of Hillsborough, Rockingham, and Merrimack Counties. Municipalities in this region include: **Atkinson, Auburn, Bedford, Candia, Chester, Danville, Deerfield, Derry, Goffstown, Hampstead, Hooksett, Londonderry, Manchester, New Boston, Plaistow, Raymond, Salem, Sandown, Weare, and Windham.**



Next RCC Meeting:

Wednesday, July 19th, 2024 | 12:30pm - 2:00pm

The RCC meets at SNHPC in the William G. Herman Conference Room. These meetings are open to the public and you can attend in-person or virtually. Visit snhpc.org for more information.

More Resources:



keepnhmoving.com



SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE
Regional Coordinating Council
FOR COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION

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