

RCC Region 4 Meeting September 17, 2024

Southwestern Community Services, Claremont NH

Attendance:

In person: Elyse Crossman* (Greater Claremont Chamber of Commerce), Nancy Meyer* (City of Claremont), Keith Thibault* (SCS), Candy Reed (Region 4 Mobility Manager), Tim Josephson* (UVLSPRC), Toby DelVecchio (UVLSRPC)

Remote: Jen Blodgett* (Sullivan County Servicelink), James Berquist* (Transit Director for Sullivan County Transportation), Teri Palmer (statewide mobility manager), Fred Butler (NHDOT), Shannon Anderson (Sullivan County Servicelink)

*Voting member

Meeting called to order at 1:09; no quorum present but informational only at this time

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Meeting minutes were tabled due to lack of quorum
3. Statewide MM update from Teri:
 - a. She submitted our volunteer driver awards for the NH Spirit Awards, 10/21 they will receive an award!
 - b. Statewide volunteer driver initiative (commercials on WMUR), recruitment – she can get info to you.
 - c. Big discussions of 5310 funding for FY 26 27 right now
4. Mobility Management updates:
 - a. See Candy's workplan in the packet – please review and bring comments back to her
 - b. Coincides with state blueprint (get one for Toby)
 - c. Purpose of this workplan is because the RCC has a say in what the MM does – what does the region need as a mobility manager? Is it participating more in functions? Going to meet the train? Etc? Work on getting speakers in for our meetings – what do we want to learn about? Let's work on transportation as a whole
 - d. What are the needs? What are we missing? How can we help? Different ideas on where we can be effective, who we can reach out to – what members are we missing? Recruit more folks to the table
 - e. October is Community Transportation Month – more to come soon. If any businesses are looking to participate in this, please reach out to Candy (events, etc). Be creative! A cookout for your drivers, (don't forget about the volunteer drivers!), a bike rodeo, etc.
 - f. If you know of a group that might like to start a volunteer driver program in their area, let Candy know. There are gaps in the region – biggest gaps are Cornish to Claremont and Newport to New London. Volunteer driver program is the only reliable link for those people. This is a critical piece of the transportation network here in the area.
 - g. Volunteer driver kits and other supports for the drivers make it attractive to them

- h. Dialysis center is waiting to open – waiting for staff – this will change demand patterns in the area both positively and negatively.
 - i. This is the quiet season for her now, doing lots of research and connecting with other MMs in the state.
 - j. Still getting requests for the car repair assistance and the alternative transportation money (taxi rides etc).
 - k. Keith felt that the car repair program was very effective and we should keep that on a front burner. Let's ID programs that work and try to keep them going. Program was not a problem, it helped to define the need better.
 - l. Every cent was spent
 - m. At least one elementary school is going to do walk to school day (Disnard 10/9)
 - i. National Walk to School Day is 10/2
 - n. Teri – first week of Oct the National Week Without Driving
 - i. Subcommittee of Complete Streets Committee working across the state to talk about elderly/disabled how difficult their transportation life is.
 - ii. What would you do without reliable personal transportation?
 - iii. Have people look at their transportation systems
 - iv. Bikes, Buses and Brooms is the Oct NH Challenge for transportation alternatives
 - v. Earn gift cards
 - vi. KeepNHMoving.com – event calendar will begin to fill up and they will put everything on there for the state. For example in Keene, their buses will be fare-free Fridays in Oct
5. Other updates:
- a. Fred Butler – NHDOT – likes how Region 4 is doing – bringing in new partners with entire communities not just the transportation providers. 5311 and 5310 funding are going to go through amendments for state FY 25, the region will get an additional 10%. Moving forward with that even if region doesn't have exactly what it needs spelled out yet. Buckets of funding can be moved around after the fact
 - i. Teri – does this region need to discuss 5310 allocation for next year?
Proposed apportionment? Fred: yes, let's have that conversation. We can figure out the exact amounts later as long as there's not drastic changes.
Looking for a broad discussion
 - b. Jennifer Blodgett: Open enrollment for Medicare Part D starts 10/15-127, they open for scheduling on 10/1/24 and clients are booked first come first serve. Limited slots available weekly
 - c. Elyse – National Walk to School Day, might be 10/9? Ruby Bridges – desegregation – now around that, coordinating everyone walking together.
 - d. Tim, UVLSRPC – the Charlestown/Springfield Bridge
 - e. Teri – listening sessions in Charlestown, Claremont, and virtual – one more in Newport on 10/8 – 6pm
 - f. Elyse – Claremont has lots of things happening – Rail Trail Rendezvous – 10/12 between Claremont and Newport from Discover Sugar River Region. Start in Newport or Claremont however you choose and meet in the middle at Protectworth

Brewing – walk run ride, ATV, horse, whatever – have a fun time! Courtesy shuttles as well – band, food trucks, more!

- g. Nancy – helping with the Claremont fests coming up – Kiwanis Brewfest this weekend, Chili Cookoff 10/5. Arrowhead has some events coming up this fall as well
 - h. Pleasant St will be closed on Halloween from 3-5, storefronts will give out candy with trunk or treat for the kids 😊
6. NH State Coordinating Council – SCC
- a. Monthly, first Thursday of the month in Concord at GSIL or over Zoom
 - b. They ask this last meeting was for us as MMs to reach out to the RCC members to let them know a little about what the SCC is all about
 - c. We as the RCC can bring things to them (usually through Teri Palmer, then she works with Fred on the issues we see in our community)
 - d. They see things from the bigger picture and can figure out where the local RCC fits with state funding and initiatives, help coordinate cross-regions
 - e. Going forward, the SCC minutes will be sent out ahead of our RCC meetings so you can see what has been discussed at each meeting and keep up to date on things
 - f. Shows the things happening in other regions in NH
 - g. On KeepNHMoving, you can see when all the meetings are and attend via Zoom if you want
 - h. Toby shared that as a new person on the site, it was easy to navigate and find what he was looking for
 - i. Teri – trying to improve the communication between RCCs and SCC and vis versa. Ideas might be like having the RCC chairs meet with the state on a regular basis
 - j. Candy got an email from Steve Workman – just completed the most recent SCC meeting minutes, she will send those out
7. New Business – none at this time
8. Next meeting – Beth Daniels would like to have an Oct meeting so she can go over what Fred was talking about with 5310 funds.
9. Next meeting is 10/15 at 1pm