

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

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2025**

SOUTHERN NH PLANNING COMMISSION/ZOOM

## DRAFT MINUTES

### ATTENDEES

Mike Whitten, Chair – MTA	Angelique Pandolph – Easterseals
Scott Bogle – Rockingham Planning Commission	Elizabeth Robidoux – Derry*
Tim Diaz – RNMOW	Tracey Whitehead – MTA/CART
Ben Herbert – R8 Mobility Manager	James Wilkie – CareGivers
Jack Hutchinson – Citizen Member (Deerfield)	John Wilson – Citizen Member (Londonderry)
Lisa Ludwigsen – Easterseals NH	Noriko Yoshida-Travers – Atkinson*
Nate Miller – SNHPC	Sylvia von Aulock – SNHPC
Ashley O'Donnell – CareGivers	Adam Hlasny – SNHPC
Teri Palmer – Statewide Mobility Manager*	

*\*attended virtually*

### 1. Call to Order

Chair Whitten called the meeting to order at 12:33 PM.

### 2. Action on Minutes of November 19, 2024

*Motion by Angelique to approve minutes, seconded by Tim. Motion carried unanimously.*

### 3. FTA 5310 Capital Application Consideration

Angelique said that Easterseals would like to apply to replace a 5310 cutaway vehicle listed on the TAM Plan.

*Motion by Scott to support Easterseals' application, seconded by Jim and carried unanimously with Angelique abstaining.*

Adam will follow up with Easterseals, draft an RCC letter of support, and share with Nate for review.

### 4. Updates

Nate gave a brief update on current 5310 billing status, noting that there is outstanding information from CareGivers.

Ben gave a mobility management update, noting that there were 158 referrals in 2024, a significant increase from 2022 and 2023. Ben also shared a table of which municipalities received the most service in 2024. Tim pointed out that Rockingham Nutrition Meals on Wheels (RNMOW) covers Hampstead and added that number of rides provided compared with towns' population density would be helpful to see at some point.

## **5. Designation of FY 2026-2027 Lead Agency**

Nate noted that all agencies on the Region 8 RCC contact list have been advised that any agency with the capacity to administer FTA Section 5310 funding is welcome to put their name forward to the RCC as a candidate for FY 2026-2027 Lead Agency.

To date, no agencies have put their name forward for consideration as Lead Agency for the FY 2026-2027 period. Nate advised that SNHPC is willing to continue serving in this capacity given that no other agencies have stepped forward.

*Motion by Tim to support SNHPC continuing as R8 RCC lead agency for the FY 2026-2027 contract period, seconded by Scott and carried unanimously with Angelique abstaining.*

## **6. Review/Consideration of Proposed FY 2026-2027 Hourly Rates from Providers**

Nate shared a compilation of proposed updated hourly rates received from each provider agency:

- **Easterseals**
  - Current (FY24-25) hourly rate: \$56.80
  - Proposed (FY26-27) hourly rate: \$57.67
    - Increase of 1.5% over current rate
- **MTA**
  - Current (FY24-25) hourly rate: \$52.00
  - Proposed (FY26-27) hourly rate: \$60.00
    - Increase of 15.4% over current rate
    - MTA did not change their rate between the FY22-23 contract cycle and the FY24-25 contract cycle, so the rate has been \$52 over the past four years.
- **Rockingham Nutrition Meals on Wheels**
  - Current (FY24-25) hourly rate: \$56.56
  - Proposed (FY26-27) hourly rate: \$60.62
    - Increase of 7.2% over current rate

After a discussion including a detailed review of each provider's proposed rates, *Jack made a motion to approve the proposed Easterseals, MTA, and RNMOW rates for the FY 2026-2027 contract period, seconded by Scott and carried unanimously.*

## **7. Discussion of FY 2026-2027 Section 5310 Funding Allocation**

Teri reported that since the meeting started, an email came in from Fred Butler of NHDOT outlining anticipated FY26-27 Section 5310 funding. Region 8 RCC was advised to generate plans for the reduced (\$543,135) and level (\$581,100) funding scenarios.

Nate explained that there is potential to reach the \$581,100 number to match the FY25 amount, which included one-time supplemental funding. There are several possible scenarios to make this happen, including a transfer of \$37,965 of 5307 funds to MTA. However, differing match amounts and needing MTA board approval in transferring these funds to CART (as MTA and CART operate as separate entities) could make this scenario difficult. There may be potential to utilize toll credits to account for any differences in local match requirement, but this would need to be authorized by NHDOT.

MTA will be discontinuing the New Boston Shuttle on July 1, 2025. Nate pointed out that even without the cost of New Boston service, Region 8 is still \$26,662 over the higher funding scenario given the new provider rates. Considering the new provider rates, there may need to be a service reduction in both funding scenarios.

Ben mentioned that MTA's Goffstown service has seen decreased ridership in the last year. Since Easterseals provides considerable service in Goffstown, it was suggested that these services be examined for any overlap that could be reduced for further efficiency.

There was some discussion of the CART extended Derry service, during which Saturday ridership was the greatest. Eliminating all extended weeknight service would save enough funding to fall under the reduced funding scenario. Elizabeth said she would prefer not to decrease hours if possible. Therefore, Nate suggested the RCC consider more nuanced ways to potentially keep the most productive weeknights or perhaps trim an hour from each weeknight. Tracey said she would follow up with more specific ridership numbers that might lead to more efficient reductions, if that is the way the RCC wishes to proceed.

Chair Whitten added that it could be beneficial for providers to have conversations with local officials regarding match amounts.

#### **8. Other Business**

There was no other business.

#### **9. Next Meeting**

The next RCC meeting – a work session to flesh out the FY26-27 program of projects – will be held on **February 4, 2025, at 12:30pm**. There will then be a public hearing to confirm projects, likely in mid-late February in advance of the March 6, 2025 5310 submission deadline.

*Motion by Jack to adjourn, seconded by Tim. Meeting stood adjourned at 2:19 PM.*