

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

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2026**

SOUTHERN NH PLANNING COMMISSION/ZOOM

## DRAFT MINUTES

### ATTENDEES

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Mike Whitten, Chair – MTA                   | Angelique Pandolph – Easterseals           |
| Tricia Adams – CareGivers of Greater Derry* | Susanne Peace – Future In Sight*           |
| Scott Bogle – RPC                           | Elizabeth Robidoux – Derry*                |
| Ben Herbert – R8 Mobility Manager           | Lisa Steadman – R5 Mobility Manager        |
| Adam Hlasny – SNHPC                         | Sylvia von Aulock – SNHPC                  |
| Jack Hutchinson – Deerfield                 | Liliana Vornehm – SNHPC                    |
| Elaine Michaud – Manchester Health Dept.*   | Tracey Whitehead – MTA/CART                |
| Nate Miller – SNHPC                         | John Wilson – Citizen Member (Londonderry) |
| Adna Mohamed – Sublime Transit              | Connie Young – Greater Salem Caregivers*   |

*\*attended virtually*

### 1. Call to Order

Chair Whitten called the meeting to order at 12:31 PM.

### 2. Action on Minutes of November 18, 2025

*Motion by Elizabeth to approve November 18 minutes, seconded by Scott. Motion carried unanimously.*

### 3. FTA 5310 Capital Application Consideration

Adam noted that Easterseals NH was the only 5310 applicant to come forward in this round. Angelique gave a brief description of the vehicle being replaced.

**Motion by Jack to endorse Easterseals' application, seconded by Elizabeth and carried unanimously with Angelique abstaining.**

### 4. Updates

#### FY 2026-27 Section 5310 Activities

Nate reported that through November, 5310 drawdowns are largely tracking as expected.

#### Mobility Management

Ben presented highlights from his bi-monthly report, including that the number of total new riders is up from last year across services. In response to a question from Scott, Tricia confirmed that Caregivers of Greater Derry has 85 volunteer drivers, exclusive of volunteers from other programs.

#### December SCC-RCC Meeting

Chair Whitten reported on the meeting that was held in mid-December and intended for the SCC to hear feedback from RCCs. There was good attendance from across the RCCs, though there appeared to be a gap in SCC understanding of what's happening in the regions. Angelique said she'd be happy to be involved in furthering communication between the SCC and RCCs.

There was a follow up discussion about the \$204 million in “GO NORTH” funding currently available for rural areas. The definition of rural was atypical in that it only included Hooksett and New Boston in the Region 8 RCC area. None of these funds can be used to provide rides. A “one-call, one-click” app has been discussed as a potential project for this federal funding, though there were concerns among those present that there is not enough focus on provision of service to warrant such a major investment in an app. Scott used the analogy of “a high-tech onramp to a dirt road” if rides booked through the app cannot be provided.

Nate added that onerous reporting requirements have been very difficult to navigate. If the app can streamline some of the reporting for providers, it would have tremendous utility. Scott noted that the TripLink tool took years to build in Region 10; to incentivize participation, R10 5310 funding availability is contingent upon providers making scheduling available through TripLink.

#### **5. Service Provider Check-in**

Connie reported that Greater Salem Caregivers (GSC) has taken on providing service in Plaistow in addition to Salem and Pelham. Since January 1, the volume of requests for new clients in all three towns has been higher than at any time in the last three years. GSC has been dealing with how a small organization (1 FT, 2 PT employees) can handle the increased volume of requests.

Elaine said that the Manchester Health Department has launched an Age-Friendly Action Plan for Manchester. Seven workgroups are in effect, focusing on aspects of an age-friendly city including transportation. Sylvia and Mike have been recruited to participate in that group.

Ben introduced Adna of Sublime Transit, who noted that her company is focusing on individuals with disabilities, slowly growing its fleet of four vehicles, and attempting to grow geographically beyond Manchester to more rural communities.

Sylvia and Adam noted that SNHPC is now working with a Goffstown stakeholder group designed to collaborate and increase ridership on the MTA Goffstown Shuttle. The group next meets on March 9.

Chair Whitten announced that there are now several partnerships to increase cross-border service in Haverhill, Salem, and Plaistow on Lowell Regional Transit, Nashua, Transit, and Merrimack Valley Transit (MeVa).

#### **6. ReadyRides/Deerfield Service Discussion**

Based on levels of service needed in Deerfield since the project’s July 2025 kickoff, the project’s 5310 funding could run out as early as April 2026. Jack reported that Deerfield is working on alternate funding options, including a capital reserve trust fund. This has been unanimously supported by the Board of Selectmen, and he expects it will pass.

John reported that the \$5 vehicle registration fee will be going on the ballot in Londonderry. This could provide funds to bolster/extend CART service.

**7. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**8. Next Meeting**

The next RCC meeting will be held on **Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at 12:30.**

*Motion by Angelique to adjourn, seconded by Jack. Meeting stood adjourned at 1:54 PM.*