

Consolidated Manchester / Derry-Salem [R8] Regional Coordination Council

Tuesday, May 19, 2026

Southern NH Planning Commission/Zoom

DRAFT MINUTES

ATTENDEES

Mike Whitten, Chair – MTA
Scott Bogle – RPC
Tim Diaz – MoW Rockingham County
Bev Donovan – Derry*
Jo Ann Duffy – Goffstown*
Ben Herbert – R8 Mobility Manager
Adam Hlasny – SNHPC
Jack Hutchinson – Deerfield
Lisa Ludwigsen – Easterseals*

Nate Miller – SNHPC
Angelique Pandolph – Easterseals
Susanne Peace – Future In Sight
Elizabeth Robidoux – Derry*
Sylvia von Aulock – SNHPC
Liliana Vornehm – SNHPC
Tracey Whitehead – MTA/CART
James Wilkie – CareGivers
John Wilson – Citizen Member (Londonderry)
**attended virtually*

1. Call to Order

Chair Whitten called the meeting to order at 12:32 PM.

2. Action on Minutes of March 17, 2026

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

3. Updates

FY 2026-27 Section 5310 Activities

Nate reported that through FY2026 Q3, 5310 drawdowns and ridership trends are largely tracking as expected except for the expanded Derry CART service, which is currently ~\$35,000 under budget. Chair Whitten explained that for the first three quarters of the fiscal year, a “bare bones” schedule was run, the service being capped at one vehicle. Now that town match has been secured and capacity constraints are no longer a concern, service hours will rise in Q4. When Q4 information is available, the RCC will have a better idea of projected service hours for FY 2027.

Chair Whitten said that if this activity is still underspent in FY 2027, the RCC can decide whether to reallocate the funds to another activity. There was a brief discussion about FY 2028-29 funding later in the meeting.

Mobility Management

Ben presented his bi-monthly report, including that total new riders are up 18% across services. Easterseals and Meals on Wheels of Rockingham County have seen greater increases. He also briefly reviewed the latest iteration of the Story Map and mentioned some data highlights. Finally, Ben noted an in-depth 5/18/26 Manchester InkLink article highlighting a recent bus tour that included Manchester Aldermen, SNHPC Assistant Planner Liliana Vornehm, and himself.

SCC Updates

- Angelique announced that the SCC's annual meeting with the NH Transit Association will be held on June 4, 2026.
- For the time being, the duties of former State Mobility Manager Teri Palmer are being filled by an RLS staff member and Fred Butler from NHDOT.
- Fred has met with folks from the GO-NORTH Rural Healthcare Initiative Council, and they are working on Phase I contracts. Transportation is on the list to be addressed in Phase II of this program.
- The deadline for the Community Transportation Needs Assessment was April 20, 2026. The State Council on Aging will weigh in/adjust the draft report, which is expected to be finalized/published by the end of May.
- The SCC Goal 1 (Communications) subcommittee has received feedback from almost every region. Region 7 (Greater Nashua) will be doing a pilot in filling out the template and adjustments will be made as needed.
- Transit is being reevaluated holistically in both the Keene and Laconia regions.

There was some follow-up discussion about Volunteer Driver Programs, and whether there has been drop-off in volunteers since the recent major gas price increases. Across agencies, it seems like more drivers are requesting reimbursement where they haven't in the past. James noted that there has been no noticeable decline in trips. CareGivers is trying to recruit drivers quickly, as there is still more need than driver availability.

Chair Whitten mentioned a brief survey he received from Fred Butler of NHDOT. The survey's purpose was to ensure trip priorities are established within each RCC region. It focused on RCCs making difficult decisions to ensure FTA funds last the entire fiscal year. Options to stretch funding further included:

- **Limit the number of trips an individual can take per week.** James noted that CareGivers already does this, with a limit of three round-trip rides per week.
- **Implement need-based restrictions** (e.g., veterans, individuals with disabilities only). RCC members responded "no way".
- **Implement trip purpose restrictions** (e.g., medical appointments only). This was seen by the RCC as the most preferable among the three options given.

Scott suggested that a blanket decision on these options should not be made at the state level, as there might be a legitimate reason why one RCC would choose one reason over another. Nate added that he is not aware of any projects receiving 5310 assistance limiting trips currently.

4. FY 2028-29 Section 5310 Funding Discussion

Nate said that for FY 2028-29, there is a projected annual 5310 funding cut from the FY 2026-27 RCC 8 allocation of \$581,100 to \$543,100. Federal transportation reauthorization is due in September, which could change calculations. In response to a question from Tim, Nate replied that while he doesn't think NHDOT is punitive if funding is left on the table, efforts should be

made to draw down the entirety of available FY 2026-27 funding. He added that even if the Derry service ramps up in Q4 of FY 2026, there may be a chunk of FY 2026 funding to roll over/redeploy in FY 2027.

Susanne noted that Future In Sight would welcome 5310 assistance for rides currently provided in Region 8. In response to a question from Chair Whitten regarding local match, Susanne said that that is a question for the FIS CFO. Nate added that no 5310 subrecipients currently use in-kind contributions to match federal funds.

5. Provider Corner - MTA

In the interest of time, this item was tabled until the next meeting.

6. Other Business

There was no other business.

7. Next Meeting

The next RCC meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, July 14, 2026 at 12:30.**

Motion by James to adjourn, seconded by Tim. Meeting stood adjourned at 2:01 PM.