



NH State Coordinating Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 3, 2022, 1:30 PM ~ GSIL/Zoom

Members Present In-Person:

Fred Roberge (Chair), Fred Butler, Melina Hill Walker, Jesse Lore, Sara O'Dougherty, Teri Palmer, Gene Patnode, Deborah Ritcey, Steve Workman, Cindy Yanski

Members Present via Zoom:

Mike Acerno, Ellen Avery, Terri Paige, Mike Tardiff

Others Present:

Nick Altonaga, Scott Bogle, Laura Brown, Jeff Donald, Andrew Harmon, Adam Hlasny, Terry Johnson, Tim Josephson, Janet Langdell, Kerry Miller, Nate Miller, Charles Pratt, Nick Schelberg, Sylvia von Aulock, Matt Waitkins, John Wilson, Carole Zangla

Chair Fred Roberge called the SCC meeting to order at 1:33 PM. He acknowledged that RLS is at the meeting, and that they will be a key component of Mobility Management (MM) network integration. He added that the SCC must be cognizant of succession planning as the end of the fiscal year approaches.

Adoption of February 3, 2022 Minutes

Motion by Jesse Lore to adopt the minutes, seconded by Ellen Avery and carried unanimously.

MOBILITY MANAGEMENT NETWORK IMPLEMENTATION

General Implementation Updates

Steve Workman noted that CDC contracts for rural RCC regions passed at the February Governor and Council (G&C) meeting. Steve is also actively engaged in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion work that ties directly to the CDC workplan.

CDC Grant Update

Steve reported that Alisa Druzba is on vacation, but he expects to see budget forms in the coming week. Several projects will deal with younger riders, which is encouraging as there is recognition that the transportation system needs to serve all users.

Status of Mobility Manager Positions by Region

Steve noted that a few regions are going through the RFP process, and others are doing internal hires. Regional MMs will be gradually brought on board over the next 2-3 months.

State Mobility Manager Position Updates and Discussion

Laura Brown of RLS passed along an update from Julie Schafer, who was unable to be at the meeting.

- The State MM position has been posted on Indeed, as well as the NH RTAP website. It has been submitted to CTAA, but not yet posted on its website.
- There are two New Hampshire-based applicants thus far, one of whom has 5310/11 operations/management experience.
- The pay range has been increased from \$56,000-60,000 to \$65,000-70,000.
- The first round of interviews will begin during the week of 3/14/22.

In response to a question from Gene Patnode, Laura replied that the closing date is 3/11/22, but could be extended if necessary.

In response to a question from Andrew Harmon, Fred Butler replied that the State MM will be a permanent hire at RLS and Associates, who are the project consultant through the NH DOT contract. They will not have a physical office. Fred Butler added that while RLS will be leading the interviewing/hiring process, the SCC will have a chance to provide input.

Chair Roberge said that contracts for urban RCC areas will be coming before G&C at its 4/6/22 meeting, if not sooner. Steve said that reaching out to Executive Councilors and helping them connect the dots beforehand is very important. In response to a question from Ellen, Steve said that he would compose some bullet points so that regions are on the same page before contacting Executive Councilors.

Steve added that New Hampshire's braided funding template is picking up more national attention. He and Alisa were interviewed for a 40-minute segment of a 3-part podcast series highlighting public transportation's role in rural healthcare access. When it is released in April, the link will be shared with SCC members.

Brief RCC Project Updates

Region 1-2 (Coos-Grafton-Carroll)

- Tri-County CAP has agreed to act as lead agency, and plan to hire two MMs, one for each sub-region.
- Nick Altonaga said that the next RCC meeting will occur in the next couple weeks.

Region 3 (Belknap-Merrimack)

- Cindy Yanski reported that the RCC is working on incentives to recruit more volunteer drivers in the region.
- There is also a pot of funding to focus on website issues and providing more information about transportation in the region.
- Terri Paige added that the region is looking to provide some sort of micro-transit model throughout the region to fill gaps in the VDP network.
- There is the potential to pursue passenger enhancements on the fixed-route system, such as real-time bus location and an online reservation portal.

Region 4 (Sullivan)

- Teri Palmer reported that a MM will be in place over the next couple weeks and should be at the next SCC meeting.
- The RCC is working with a Newport youth group to provide transportation for about 15 4H students without other transportation options after 4:30pm.
- Other potential projects include a taxi voucher program, helping manufacturers with transportation needs, and working with RPCs to see if a VDP is feasible in lower Grafton County.

Region 5 (Cheshire-Monadnock)

- The RCC has two projects that are basically “shovel-ready”: an after-school youth program called Kids’ Collaborative that serves 500 children ages 0-17 in various Cheshire County housing developments. This program will run five days per week during the school year.
- The other project is an expansion of grocery trips from once per month to once per week and expanding eligibility from seniors to the general public. There is the potential to do bi-monthly runs along the Route 10 corridor from Keene to Winchester.

Region 7 (Nashua)

- Nashua RPC intends to hire a full-time employee as the Regional MM for Region 7. At the most recent RCC meeting, the job description was adopted by consensus. The hiring process can begin once FY22-23 contract revisions are confirmed.
- A VDP feasibility study is underway, as there are currently no VDPs in the region.
- Intercity employment transportation is also being discussed, which has been a valuable process for the region. Outreach has been done to the elderly in the past, but the RCC is now trying to reach other populations, including transitional/homeless.

Region 8 (Manchester-Derry-Salem)

- This RCC will hire a MM through the RFP process. The RFP will be finalized and distributed shortly.
- SNHPC staff is partnering with RPC staff to update its coordinated plan, which will be the first for the consolidated Regions 8 and 9.
- Regional providers are still seeing significant COVID-related impacts on ridership.

Region 10 (Southeast)

- The RCC is launching a common application and encouraging existing clients to use this to register for all services for which they are eligible.
- Last week the RCC completed the MM self-assessment pilot for the National Center for Mobility Management.

Sylvia von Aulock noted the Alliance for Healthy Aging (AHA)'s VDP recruitment effort, a partnership between AHA and HHS. Ellen added that its purpose is to create a marketing program, set up a webpage under AHA's website, and develop a statewide VDP map. Additionally, print and video advertising will be created and launched by late spring-early summer. Jeff Donald added that this is driven by HHS funding.

Jesse said that he is impressed with RCC progress and noted the importance of documenting baseline status of these initiatives. This will allow more accurate tracking of progress over the course of the next few years. Steve said he will work closely with the Statewide MM to ensure data is gathered accurately throughout the regions and, by extension, statewide.

SCC STRATEGIC PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Ellen thanked committee members for their work on Strategic Plan development. She said that this is an opportunity for the SCC to step back from its everyday work and imagine where the organization can be in the future, grappling with issues that haven't been dealt with to this point. Work on this strategic plan will last at least a year, with a planning horizon of the next 3-5 years. A consultant will lead the work of creating the final plan, but it will also involve SCC input and that of key partners. Focus areas will include:

- Mobility Manager network
- SCC governance
- Fiscal sustainability
- Needs assessment/data collection
- Coordination
- Advocacy

Sylvia noted that the strategic plan should be accessible to service providers and others who may not be familiar with lingo/regulations.

Jesse noted the importance of environmental sustainability, using the example of the proliferation of electric vehicles over the next several years.

Chair Roberge said that consideration of a change in delivery systems will be necessary, as well as advocacy for streamlining oversight.

Andrew said that outreach is important, and specifically making people aware of what transportation resources are available.

Deborah said that governance should be added to the strategic plan. Bylaws should be looked at, especially after the MM initiative is up and running.

Scott noted the importance of dovetailing development of the SCC strategic plan with the AHA statewide assessment, ensuring that timelines mesh well.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Chair Roberge reminded the SCC of his upcoming resignation in June 2022. He added that Mike Tardiff is also stepping down as vice-chair, though his position is statutory. There is the need for a permanent secretary as well. There should be nominations by May so they can be confirmed by the June meeting. The secretary does not have to be an SCC member, but other leadership does.

Motion by Deborah Ritcey to adjourn, seconded by Melina Hill Walker and carried unanimously. Meeting stood adjourned at 3:40 PM.

Next Meeting: April 7, 2022