



Locally Coordinated Meeting Minutes

09-13-06

Attendees:

Mark Sousa, NTS
Lori Lorman, NTS
Bob Jeniski, NTS
Janice Hill, NHSGN
Betsy Portash, Nashua Pastoral Care
Bob Mack, Nashua City Welfare
Lara Rice, Greater Nashua Workforce
Housing Coalition
Mary Beth Smaha, Area Agency
Meghan Brady, St. Joseph's Comm. Serv.
Klass Nijhuis, Harbor Homes

Kit Morgan, NH DOT
Deborah Gosselin, So. NH Services
Donnalee Lozeau, So. NH Services
Suzanne Keller, So. NH Medical Center
Sue Hovling, Pelham Senior Center
Mike LaChance, YMCA
Pat Murphy, Town of Merrimack Welfare
Camille Pattison, NRPC
Steve Williams, NRPC
Matt Waitkins, NRPC
Bernie Yacobucci, NRPC

The meeting began at 12:07.

Camille Pattison opened the meeting with introductions and proceeded to go over the agenda item by item giving a brief explanation of each. Steve Williams introduced himself and explained to the group who NRPC is and what we do for the region (i.e., MPO explanation, types of planning). He informed the group of the concerns of the State in regards to basic transportation needs. Under SAFETEA-LU, the transportation reauthorization signed into law in 2005, NRPC is required perform specific transportation planning activities. Development of a Locally Coordinated Transportation Plan is one of these tasks. He explained how State and Federal government look at the same transportation issues, but are not coordinated and that by making the 2 processes compatible will help in changes to come.

Sue Hovling questioned if there was any federal bill in legislature currently that is in need of support. Steve Williams responded with a further explanation of the process and informed Sue that there was nothing that he was aware of. Kit Morgan spoke up saying there were 62 programs funding transportation but knew of nothing pending. Sue wanted to know if there was anything she could bring to a meeting she would be attending with her focus being transportation, with the National Council on Aging on funding for the elderly.

Kit explained that you have to have a list of prioritized projects to apply for 3 different types of transportation funding. Camille let the group know of the 3 types and gave a brief explanation of each.

New Freedoms (a new funding source) is for new service, beyond what is already required by law; JARC is for providing job access between urban and suburban areas; and Elderly and Disabled funding general provides capital to purchase vehicles.

Camille explained that agencies were contacted and received a Transportation Surveys was to collect information needed and required to develop the Locally Coordinated Transportation Plan. She then passed around a "United We Ride" survey for the group to complete during the meeting. For questions on the survey that did not apply, she asked that they leave them blank. She asked them to answer the questions with the Nashua Region in mind and gave everyone 15 minutes to complete the survey. Once the 15 minutes had passed, Camille moved on to the next item on the agenda: a roundtable discussion based on two questions. Below are the results of the discussion:

WHAT DOES THE GREATER NASHUA REGION DO WELL REGARDING PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION?

- Communication with Clients (NTS)
- Demand Response within the City of Nashua
- Tailoring to Clients Needs (by human service providers)
- “Pockets” of Needs are Met
- Good social Service Network
- Pooling Resources

Mark Sousa wanted clarification between regional and city. A member of the group spoke up saying that travel beyond Nashua is virtually impossible.

WHAT DOES THE REGION NEED TO DO BETTER REGARDING PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION?

- Regional Communications
- Regional Services
- Rural Transportation
- Beyond Nashua Providing Access to:
 - Work
 - Medical
 - Childcare
- Connect the “Pockets” Where Transportation is Well Provided

Camille moved onto #5 of the agenda, identifying the transportation needs of each agency and some barriers to transportation.

Nashua Care Center (transitional housing)

- Women need to get to school and work outside of Nashua.

Area Agency for Developmental Services

- Transportation from outside towns.
- Can't afford “care program”.

Pelham Senior Center

No transportation services except:

- Issue: Driver availability/time frame/time conflicts.
- Need: Coordinate with other transportation systems.

YMCA

- Child transportation to the “Y”.
- Getting kids home and other places.

Southern New Hampshire Services (SNHS)

- Children to childcare for working parents.
- Federal funding (federal funds gone).

Saint Josephs Community Services

- Patients to appointments outside Nashua.
- Discharged patient transportation.

Harbor Homes

- Need to avoid difficult logistics between other agencies.

- Restrictions around transportation due to medications (challenging clients).

Nashua Welfare

- Transportation to work, childcare, appointments (nothing outside Nashua).
- Time of day issues.

Nashua Workforce Housing Authority

- Living outside Nashua needs (transportation to work/school/medical appointments/court, etc.).

Saint Joseph's

- Funding
- Perceptions of Safety
- Can't charge a fee for transportation due to federal requirements.
- Connections to other agencies.

Town of Merrimack Welfare

- Limitations of transportation to grocery store, medical appointments (all age groups)
- Need to make up for lack of access to private vehicles.

NTS

- Funding and how it can be used and what for.

Neighborhood Housing Services

- More access to alternate transportation
- Awareness of what is available regarding public transportation

This concluded # 5 of the agenda. Based on the information collected at the meeting, any parts of a written report would be provided to the group at the next meeting. In addition, she hoped to have a draft plan for the group for comments by November, and a completed plan ready for adoption at the NRPC Commission meeting in December. Camille informed the group that **the next meeting was set for October 11, 2006 at Noon**. The goal for that meeting would be to find out what transportation services they would like to see in the region in the future.

Meeting adjourned at 1:27pm

CP/kmb
#410-21