



DRAFT
Regional Coordinating Council (RCC)
Meeting Minutes
5/5/2020

Attendees:

Tony Attardo, Gate City Bike Coop
John Goeman, NRPC
Janet Langdell, SVTC-MIL
Pat Murphy, Merrimack
Carol Brooks, SVTC
Camille Pattison, NTS

Donna Marceau, NSKS
Matt Waitkins, NRPC
Jay Minkarah, NRPC
Rebecca Zule, the Cancer Center

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Waitkins opened the meeting at 2:03pm asking for a round of introductions.

PURPOSE OF THIS MEETING

Waitkins explained that the purpose of the meeting is based on the Governor's GOFERR request asking for RCCs to provide feedback related to 5310 POS and MM funding. 5310 funding was omitted from the COVID 19-related CARES Act. NRPC is asking the RCC and community transportation stakeholders for funding ideas related to Covid-19. RCC Regions 8 and 9 considered it to be an opportunity for funding

Pattison asked if this is only for the 5310 funds that are directly passed through the State. Waitkins responded that his understanding is this is a block of money that the State received as part of the CARES Act and is separate from DOT funding (confirm).

Pattison asked if this is funding beyond the CARES Act. As noted earlier, this is a block of funding that came to the State from the CARES Act.

Minkarah asked if this funding is limited to 5310 recipients. He suggested the group assume it is broader and we can narrow it down if needed. He additionally suggested that funding ideas should be related to COVID.

Attardo explained what Gate City Bike provides, trying to decide what they can do going forward. Complications/Impacts with the buses not running. They are moving to Airport Road. Lots of close work with people living on the street (is this related to 5310 populations? Possibly those at risk but not directly the elderly and seniors). There is an emphasis that their work helps get people to work. The organization is a registered non-profit and, on the way, to become a non-profit 501c3.

Minkarah suggested that when this group develops its funding request, Gate City Bike Coop be included under other transportation needs?

Langdell said there is a broader discussion of Hudson Merrimack Litchfield relative to the impact on municipal budgets. No one knows if they are going to get reimbursement from FEMA.

Murphy asked if this funding just for COVID-19 related. Waitkins said this funding is for continued solvency for community transportation organizations.

Pattison said this is funding from the CARES Act has no time limitations because this impact from COVID could last beyond months and years. What happens to ridership beyond the fall with Rivier and NCC? This funding may be for long-term support. Funds are to keep providers afloat and people employed. Look at LCTP for recommendations that relate to this type need and spin as needed. All NTS services have now turned into on-demand services. It would be good to be bold and ask for a larger amount. Intended for the funds to float for a couple years.

Murphy asked if this would include retrofit of buses (i.e. protective glasses on buses, etc.) and the consensus was that it could.

Pattison said NTS would like to offer face masks, and other on-going PPE like Lysol and wipes. Physical barriers are a potential option, low budget shower curtains for vans. Should be a mix short- and long-term options. Potentially looking at a \$25k retrofit for the entire fleet.

Minkarah said that retrofit, PPE, lost ad revenue all seem like relevant causes.

Langdell suggested that future outreach is going to be important. "The shunning of public transit" may be an issue when public transit systems resume fixed route service. New brochures, education, staff time, the "whole 9".

Minkarah said that Tony's idea does plug into the "last mile" issue and we as a region will want to help causes that will specifically get people to work. Bike Coop needs should be included in whatever funding "ask" is developed by this group.

Langdell noted there are other grant opportunities for the bike programs that Coop could look into as well.

Pattison concurred there is merit to include the bike programs. Can we look at what the allocations are for each town as a reference point?

Minkarah suggested using what Merrimack and Hudson contribute to NTS as a point of reference.

Goeman asked the time frame for the funding ask that will come out of this group.

Pattison suggested at least 1- and 2-year projections. She can send some anticipated contract numbers and typical costing.

Waitkins said that Jim Jalbert is the transportation point man for GOFERR, and deadline for submissions is Friday

Waitkins suggested next steps:

- NTS, SVTC, NRPC, Bike Coop should each develop narratives for what they see as COVID-related impacts to their organizations that will need to be mitigated. The narratives should include estimated costs.
- The narratives will be forwarded back to NRPC.
- NRPC will assemble the narratives into one document and submit to GOFERR

Adjourn: 2:43 PM