

Planning Committee for Regional Coordinating Council 6

MINUTES

September 14, 2009

Present: JoAnne Carr, *Town of Jaffrey*; Audrey Cass, *Contoocook Valley Transportation Company (CVTC)*; Rebecca Harris, *CVTC*; Patrick Herlihy, *NH Department of Health and Human Services*; Gary Welch, *American Red Cross*.

SWRPC Staff members present were J.B. Mack, Senior Planner; Rebeckah Bullock, Planning Intern.

Staff Member J.B. Mack called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Those in attendance introduced themselves noting the organizations they represent.

II. Minutes of August 10, 2009

Rebecca Harris requested that the minutes be amended to correct a statement that was attributed to Gary Welch but made by Daniel Levesque on page three, paragraph three of the minutes. The minutes of August 10, 2009 were then approved as amended by unanimous vote.

III. Mission and Vision Discussion

Staff member J.B. Mack began by mentioning that he has received different responses regarding the Committee's progress by Planning Group members. Some Committee members have expressed concern that the process is advancing too slowly and that mission, vision and needs of the RCC 6 region are known. Others indicate that the process is going to fast and that specifically we should re-evaluate the formation of an RCC 6 since it might make sense to make it part of the RCC 5 region. He stated his intent to follow the agenda as presented for today's meeting, by discussing the mission and vision of the RCC 6 as a way to work out these issues.

Rebecca Harris noted that a regional transportation coordinator could be shared between both RCC 5 and RCC 6. In the meantime each RCC should focus on fulfilling the needs specific to their region.

Gary Welch stated that he agrees with Rebecca Harris's idea that the two RCCs could remain separate but share a regional transportation coordinator. He added that based on his research of rides provided by the American Red Cross, he suggests that the towns of Rindge and Jaffrey be part of the RCC 5 region. He explained that individuals from these two towns preferentially travel to Keene.

JoAnne Carr suggested supplementing ride data from the American Red Cross with data from other communities before making a final decision. She cited the need for documentation of travel destinations and usage of existing transportation services.

Rebecca Harris recommended utilizing a survey to determine ride travel patterns. Gary Welch commented that surveys are not always reflective of who and how many individuals will actually use a ride service if it were available.

J. B. Mack asked Patrick Herlihy how static the regional boundaries are with respect to the State Coordinating Council. Patrick Herlihy stated that the only true set boundaries are in the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs). J. B. Mack showed the Nelson Nygaard Associates proposed RCC map currently used by the State. Patrick stated that the towns with cross-hatched markings on the map are open for discussion. He stated that from the SCC's perspective, the important element is to ensure that all towns are covered. He mentioned that the SCC recently recommended that RCC 1 and RCC 2 merge for the time being.

Gary Welch acknowledged his belief that RCC 5 and RCC 6 may merge in the future. Rebecca Harris stressed that RCC 6 has different needs than RCC 5 that shouldn't be overlooked. Gary Welch suggested one RCC with two subgroups to cover the needs of both RCC 5 and RCC 6.

Patrick Herlihy noted his concern with the idea of RCC 5 and RCC 6 sharing a regional transportation coordinator, given that RCC 5 isn't as developed as RCC 6 and they should be at the same level to jointly hire a regional transportation coordinator. Rebecca Harris noted that after all of the RCCs are established there may only be a few regional transportation coordinators shared among them.

a. Mission Statement

J.B. Mack provided a PowerPoint Presentation slide of the proposed draft mission statement included in the Committee's agenda packet. He noted that this draft mission statement captures in a generic way the mission, but doesn't capture any uniqueness for the region.

Rebecca Harris mentioned that RCC 5 has a focal point or hub: Keene. She stated that RCC 6 doesn't really have a specific hub, and that travel in the region forms more of a criss-cross pattern. She noted two popular spots as Peterborough and the Monadnock Community Hospital. Rebecca Harris stated that the normal hub and spoke model won't work for RCC 6, and suggested that this information be included in the mission statement.

J.B. Mack agreed that if the Committee wanted to differentiate RCC 5 and RCC 6, it should be done in the mission statement. He asked for ideas regarding what internally the group hopes to accomplish. Committee members suggested including the populations to be covered, building a sense of community, inclusion of other groups, transportation options easing people's lives, allow for future growth and long term development, and environmental concerns. It was also suggested that the Committee use some phrasing from the Bylaws in the creation of the mission statement.

The Committee deliberated and came to the following draft mission statement:

“The mission of the Region 6 Regional Coordinating Council is to implement and facilitate a community transportation coordination framework in the Contoocook Valley that encourages participation, involvement and support from the entire community and successfully facilitates the

creation of inter- and intra-regional transportation services to benefit transportation users, providers and purchasers.”

b. Vision Statement

J.B. Mack provided a PowerPoint Presentation slide of the proposed draft vision statement included in the Committee’s agenda packet. He asked Committee members to discuss the generic vision statement and to begin to arrive at a vision statement that includes the objectives they hope to accomplish.

The Committee deliberated and came to the following draft vision statement:

“The Region 6 Regional Coordinating Council’s vision is to create an environmentally-friendly, affordable and equitable community transportation system that provides all citizens access to services and opportunities inside the region and to neighboring regions, and improves the health and social cohesion of the Contoocook Valley region.”

IV. Memorandum of Understanding and Bylaws Discussion

J.B. Mack asked Committee members to review the draft mission and vision statements, Memorandum of Understanding, and Bylaws templates before the next meeting. He asked that the review focus on the preambles.

Rebecca Harris commented that Article 3 of the Bylaws covering the organization of members seems a bit limiting.

Patrick Herlihy suggested reviewing the Sullivan County Bylaws. He stated that he would email the Sullivan County Bylaws to J.B. who could distribute them to Committee members for their review.

V. Next Steps

J.B. Mack said the next steps will be to discuss the Memorandum of Understanding and Bylaws templates using the Sullivan County example as a guideline.

VI. Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for October 5, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. in the Monadnock Community Hospital’s Bond Wellness Center Conference Room. *This meeting was later postponed for October 22, 2009 in Conference Room 1 and 2 of the Monadnock Community Hospital.*

VII. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebeckah Bullock
Planning Intern