



March 14, 2022 Meeting Minutes for the Rhode Island Human Services Transportation Coordinating Council

The Rhode Island Human Services Transportation Coordinating Council (Coordinating Council) meeting was held on Zoom and called to order at 2:02 PM. An attendance sheet is attached to these minutes.

Maria Cimini motioned to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2021 Coordinating Council meeting. Tina Pedersen seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Joelle Kanter, RIPTA, introduced the Nelson\Nygaard consulting team selected to update the Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Coordinated Plan, which was last adopted in January 2018. Project Manager Bill Schwartz then presented an overview of the year-long process. He explained that any project slated to receive FTA Section 5310 funding for Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities must be referenced in the Coordinated Plan. It must include an inventory of transportation services, a needs assessment, strategies to address gaps in service, and a prioritized list of projects. Impacted stakeholders must be involved in the planning process as well. Bill highlighted several strategies identified in the current Coordinated Plan such as increasing funding for human services transportation, increasing rural service coverage, ensuring affordability, and improving information sharing and communications.

Another member of the consulting team, Anne Galbraith, announced that 4 listening sessions will be scheduled in late April to give people an opportunity to share feedback on the current plan and suggest new priorities. She asked the group to share flyers about the sessions with their networks.

During a discussion, meeting participants offered several suggestions, including:

- Coordinating with the RI Governor's Commission on Disabilities public forums in July.
- Encouraging more people to participate from the advocacy community representing older adults.
- Recognizing technology limitations of online meetings for those without internet access and offering phone access as an alternative.
- Targeting invitations to planners, social workers, senior center staff, homeless advocates, Ride customers, and others with specialized transportation needs.



At the next Coordinating Council meeting in May, the consulting team plans to report back on the listening sessions and share updates on the statewide inventory of transportation services. In July, they will report out on new tasks, ideas, and strategies.

Next, Joelle introduced a transportation survey, which Anne Clerc, BHDDH, suggested undertaking during the last Coordinating Council meeting. Since then, Joelle and Anne have been coordinating with Diana Gugliotta, AAA, who chairs Age-Friendly RI's transportation work group, to develop and refine the survey questions. Anne guided the group through each question and agreed to send out a link after the meeting, giving people an opportunity to provide feedback by March 18th. She also asked everyone to share the link with their clients and partners once the survey launches in April.

Joelle then gave an update on the One-Call/One-Click project which involves RIPTA developing community transportation pages on its website, www.ripta.com, as a first phase. Planning staff continues to collect information from each Rhode Island municipality and plans to streamline the content with an appropriate level of detail to keep it informative and accurate. Once the information is well organized, RIPTA's marketing team will start designing and developing the new pages. Maureen Maigret suggested providing hard copies of the information to supplement the web pages. Catherine Taylor also mentioned that AARP would like to support the project, potentially through a municipal summit.

Other updates:

- Tina Pedersen, RAMP, is planning an Accessibility is Beautiful ribbon cutting event in Kennedy Plaza where she will introduce a specially commissioned table. Similar tables will eventually be located throughout the state.
- Catherine Taylor announced the next AARP Livable Communities webinar featuring a panel discussion on housing at 10 AM on April 26th.
- RIPTA is hosting an in-person meeting on the proposed Dorrance Street Transit Center on Monday, March 21st at 6:30 PM at the CIC building, 225 Dyer Street, Providence. The project is still in a conceptual phase.
- RIPTA is also hosting 3 community-focused virtual workshops this week on proposed service improvements in the West Bay, Pawtucket and Newport, with public hearings following in April.

The meeting adjourned at 3:34 PM.



Rhode Island Human Services Transportation Coordinating Council

March 14, 2022 Attendance List

| Council Members | Organization |
|-------------------------|---|
| Benny Bergantino | RI Division of Statewide Planning |
| Jean Bousquet | RI Office of Rehabilitation Services |
| Maria Cimini | RI Dept. of Human Services |
| Laurie Diorio | RI Office of Rehabilitation Services |
| Joelle Kanter | Rhode Island Public Transit Authority |
| Anne LeClerc | RI Department of Behavioral Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Hospitals |
| Jason Lyon | RI Executive Office of Health & Human Services |
| Jacques Dextradeur II | RI Office of Veterans Services |
| Jennifer Marquis-Caruso | RI Office of Veterans Services |
| Julie Oakley | RI Department of Transportation |

Others Present

| Name | Organization |
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| Bernie Beaudreau | Senior Agenda RI |
| James Connell | Age-Friendly RI |
| Nicole Forsee | MTM |
| Anne Galbraith | ASG Consulting, Coordinated Plan consulting team |
| Caroline Gangji | The Village Common of RI |
| Ian Kolesinskas | Nelson\Nygaard, Coordinated Plan consulting team |
| Maureen Maignet | Long Term Care Coordinating Council |
| Patti Monahan | Monahan Mobility, Coordinated Plan consulting team |
| Tina Pedersen | RAMP |
| Bob Robillard | Coventry/RI Senior Center Directors Association |
| Heidi Ross | Volunteer |
| Paul Salera | Westbay CAP |
| Bill Schwartz | Nelson\Nygaard, Coordinated Plan consulting team |
| Heidi Showstead | Disability advocate, ATAC |
| Catherine Taylor | AARP Rhode Island |