



July 11, 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 in RIPTA's board room, 705 Elmwood Avenue, Providence, and was called to order at 2:04 PM. An attendance sheet is attached to these minutes, including a list of participants by phone.

Joelle Kanter, RIPTA, chaired the meeting, and started by announcing the Council's vision: accessible, coordinated statewide mobility for all Rhode Islanders. Maureen Maigret then motioned to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2022 Coordinating Council meeting. Laurie Diorio seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Joelle continued by sharing several project updates:

- One-Call/One-Click Phase One: municipal transportation information: Following the completion of the study on developing an accessible one-stop transportation resource, RIPTA has been collecting information from each Rhode Island municipality and organizing it into a standard format to present on its website. Joelle shared sample layouts including the homepage, a general community transportation landing page, and a page for a specific community. Coordinating Council participants recommended using high contrast colors and suggested that all buttons should have text labels to ensure that screen readers work on the site.
- NADTC vehicle sharing study: As Kyle Penrod announced in May, Age Friendly RI and RIPTA received a planning grant from the National Aging and Disability Transportation Center (NADTC) to explore how transportation providers might share resources to better address the needs of older adults and individuals with disabilities. At focus group meetings held at the Glocester Senior Center and Westerly Library last month, participants identified existing resources and discussed challenges and opportunities for vehicle sharing. Once the planning project is complete in September, the team hopes to start designing and testing a pilot program.
- FTA ICAM grant: RI travel training network: In June, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced awards to 17 projects through its Innovative Coordinated Access & Mobility (ICAM) Pilot Program. RIPTA is slated to receive \$96,000 to develop a statewide travel training network



designed for older adults, low-income groups, and people with disabilities to familiarize them with transportation services, foster their independence, and enhance statewide mobility. The project should kick off in a few months with a convening of key network partners, an inventory of local travel training programs, and a review of best practices in other communities.

Following the updates, Bill Schwartz, Nelson\Nygaard project manager, and Anne Galbraith, a member of the consulting team, led a strategy development working session on the Rhode Island Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Coordinated Plan. As noted in previous meetings, this plan will influence transportation spending for older adults and individuals with disabilities in Rhode Island over the next five years. To date, the team has reviewed an inventory of transportation services, analyzed needs, and created a map showing composite demand.

Bill and Anne outlined the strategies that emerged from public listening sessions, including:

- Transportation Services
- Mobility Management
- Training Programs
- Information and Communications
- Vehicles and Infrastructure
- Funding
- Coordination

After hearing summaries from the public sessions, Coordinating Council participants shared their own ideas:

- Understand why people travel and use specific services. Does scheduling depend on the trip purpose, whether passengers require assistance, or other factors?
- Expand access to parks for recreation.
- Give riders an opportunity to schedule on-demand trips.
- Simplify the information about applying for a free/reduced fare bus pass.
- Make sure it's safe to walk between senior housing complexes and adjacent bus stops.
- Improve available information about bus stops to show which ones have seating and shelters.
- Invite more advocates to participate in the Coordinating Council.



As a next step for the project, the consulting team will give a condensed version of the presentation at another round of public meetings online later this month. They will also continue conducting research on best practices in other areas before sharing a draft plan to review.

Following the Coordinated Plan presentation, Catherine Taylor announced that AARP Rhode Island will host a Livable Communities webinar on Complete Streets on August 9th.

The meeting adjourned at 3:28 PM.



Rhode Island Human Services Transportation Coordinating Council

July 11, 2022 Attendance List

Council Members	Organization
Benny Bergantino	RI Division of Statewide Planning
Laurie Diorio	RI Office of Rehabilitation Services
Sarah Ingle	Rhode Island Public Transit Authority
Joelle Kanter	Rhode Island Public Transit Authority

Others Present

Name	Organization
Julia Evelyn	Rhode Island Public Transit Authority
Anne Galbraith	ASG Consulting, Coordinated Plan consulting team
Bill Schwartz	Nelson\Nygaard

By Phone

Name	Organization
Nicole Forsee	MTM
Caroline Gangji	The Village Common of Rhode Island
Paul Hynes	MTM
Jason Lyon	RI Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Maureen Maignet	Long Term Care Coordinating Council, Senior Agenda Coalition
Darlene Reza Rossi	AARP Rhode Island
Heidi Ross	Volunteer/Advocate
Catherine Taylor	AARP Rhode Island