

New Hampshire Transit Association (NHTA)

MINUTES

September 2, 2010

Present: Van Chesnut, Lisa Paquette, Barbara Brill, Jim Sudak, Evan Rossett, Roberta Berner, Rad Nichols, Rebecca Harris, Beverly Raymond, Ken Brewer, Patrick Herlihy, Shelley Winters, Lauren Silva, J.B. Mack, Pat Crocker, Tara Germond, Diane Smith

- I. ***Minutes:*** Minutes for the August meeting were approved.
- II. ***Legislative update:*** Curtis Barry was present to give us a legislative update. He gave a brief rundown about the governor being in the %construction+process with the state budget. Coinciding with upcoming elections, it is difficult to contact representatives. Curtis asked that members let him know who the representatives are in their specific regions that may have %transit interests. There are still thoughts around finding a sole funding source for transit in the state. The gas tax plan presented awhile ago is out of the picture in that respect. Curtis had thoughts of forming a group of people in the house to caucus around one issue . transit. He has some members on board for this committee and he would like reps from larger service areas. There will be a future meeting with this group. Curtis would like the members to send him some input / thoughts on budget strategies, showing the positive and negative of service budget impacts- what they would mean, what can we do with the money, or what can happen if we don't have the money. He also mentioned that perhaps it is time once again to meet with the commissioner and would like thoughts for the agenda of this meeting. These will be agenda items for the next meeting.
On other legislative matters Van noted that there was no real movement on the federal side of things. There may be indications of a modest increase in the upcoming year.
- III. ***DOT update:*** Shelley invited members to join her and other DOT staff for lunch, to bid farewell to Lori Clare, whose last day with DOT is today. The DOT intends to fill Lori's position soon. The DOT had made some changes to the State Management Plan; this will be distributed via email to members for review and comments. Comments are to be sent to Kit by end of day on Friday September 10th. A letter had been received by Kit from the SCC regarding the 5310 Purchase of Service plan. The letter requested an extension on the deadline for applying and also a workshop defining the project guidelines. Kit will elaborate on this at the upcoming SCC meeting later today. Patrick stated that there will be \$800,000 available this year and another \$800,000 the second year. The deadline for applying has been extended to January 1, 2011 for now. It was also stated by Patrick that funding under %Mobility Management+can be used for the administrative expense imposed.
Barbara Brill asked about the status of ARRA buses on order. Shelley replied that they are still in production (20 in all) and there was no delivery date set at this time. 2 buses for Bev Raymond have gone out to bid due to them being a larger size than the others on order. Shelley stated that there was some %heat+from the commissioner on agencies not spending down or moving their ARRA project funding dollars. She urged members to address this and start moving their projects along; they were supposed to be %shovel ready+ projects and should be moving along. Members were reminded about the TRB Conference coming up in October and were encouraged to attend and get their RTAP scholarships in to Karen soon.
- IV. ***DHHS Update:*** Patrick stated that he had been contacted by Carol T. regarding how many accessible vehicles there are throughout the state- this was targeted towards a %Bio Terrorism+plan. She would want to speak at a future NHTA meeting, perhaps November. Patrick will follow up with her and get more details to see if this would be feasible.
The usual SCC meeting will be later today- 1:30 . at GSIL, Patrick gave a brief summary of the agenda; key points were the summit and 5310 funding discussions. It was mentioned that perhaps the NHTA should have a table set up at the summit, promoting the Association and membership recruitment. This will be put on the agenda for the October meeting.
- V. ***Treasurers Report:*** Ken was not present to give his report. Harry noted that we have only 7 members that have not paid dues up to this date.
- VI. ***New Business:*** J.B. Mack from SWRPC discussed the TMA Symposium that will be occurring in Keene in November and distributed information on the key note speaker, Todd Litman. The discussion was targeted

towards the expense of having Mr. Litman here for three days and what that could mean. The thought is to have him in Keene for 2 days, one speaking at the TMA symposium November 17th and then have him speak at the SCC Summit on November 18th, in Concord. SWRPC only has enough funding for part of his stay here, JB requested that perhaps there might be some RTAP dollars available to pickup the balance of his expenses for speaking at the SCC Summit. Pat and Patrick stated that they had discussed this at the summit committee meeting, and their thoughts were that the SCC was already receiving RTAP funds for the summit and was not sure there would be enough left in the budget to support Mr. Litman's cost. The amount needed is approximately \$1400. Shelley stated that it would not be likely to support this with RTAP funds seeing that the SCC is already receiving funding for the summit as stated. Patrick felt that the summit committee could discuss this and see what can be done with the budget to accommodate this. It was felt that it would be worth the expense to have Mr. Litman speak given his notoriety on his subject matter- linking transportation and land use, and how well it could fit into the program. JB stated that he needs to know about the funding as soon as possible so that he can move things along in a timely manner. It was felt that there could be an answer for him by Tuesday of next week.

- VII. **Other Business:** Rad mentioned that the Federal Registry Notice on the Urban Area Census was out. It went out August 24th. Comments should be submitted by November 22nd.

- VIII. **Next meeting:** October meeting will be held at HCS, 312 Marlboro St, in Keene . 10:00 to 12:00, to be followed by the SCC meeting at the same location . 2:00 to 4:00.

- IX. Meeting adjourned.

Recorder: Harry Costick, Secretary