

December 20, 2018 Meeting Minutes for the Rhode Island Human Services Transportation Coordinating Council

The meeting was held at RIPTA, 705 Elmwood Avenue, and called to order at 1:07 PM. Attendees of the meeting are listed on the attendance sheet attached to these minutes.

Amy Pettine of RIPTA made introductory remarks, describing the coordinated planning process to date and the collective policy work that will continue. She also introduced Joelle Kanter, RIPTA's new Human Services Transportation Planner. Dacia Read noted that the Executive Office of Health & Human Services has posted a position to manage the MTM NEMT contract.

Maureen Maigret made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2018 Coordinating Council meeting. Greg Nordin seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Dacia Read made a motion to approve the minutes of October 16, 2018. Maureen Maigret seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Amy Pettine presented a high level overview of the Draft Report to the Governor and General Assembly. She reviewed the table of contents including the legislative mandate, background information on the free fare program, and the formation of two working groups. She also outlined recommendations to find sustainable funding; improve communications, coordination, and technology integration; and take a customer-focused mobility management approach.

Council members provided feedback on the draft report including the following requests:

- Clarify how the income threshold was set for the Bus Pass Program.
- Revise the description of federal funding options for the Bus Pass Program, explaining why Medicaid funding is not available.
- Clarify that the program only targets low-income populations of seniors and adults who have disabilities.
- Reflect that the program had a dedicated funding source when it began, but participation has grown significantly since the 1990s.
- Make sure that the report reads as a position paper and focuses on the original mission.

RIPTA staff agreed to incorporate the comments into a second draft to be shared via email on December 21st. Comments on that draft will be accepted until December 26th so that staff can send the report to the governor and legislature before the end of the year.

Maureen Maigret made a motion to approve the report with edits incorporated. Linda Katz seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Amy Pettine noted that RIPTA has included the Bus Pass Program in its proposed FY 20 budget. She also shared a proposed schedule for bi-monthly Coordinating Council meetings in 2019.

Several members shared updates:

- Sarah Ingle reported on RIPTA's receipt of a grant for the Vet Pass program in partnership with the Department of Veterans Affairs. She also mentioned that RIPTA partnered with the Comprehensive Community Action Program (CCAP) to submit for a grant for the FTA Rides to Work program.
- Meghan Connelly reported on the availability of community service grants through the Division of Elderly Affairs until January 24th. Municipalities and other government entities are encouraged to apply.
- Amy Pettine described RIPTA's upcoming travel training schedule with a particular focus on senior centers.
- Greg Nordin gave an update on meetings with agencies that currently buy RIPTA fare products. RIPTA is transitioning to a more flexible account-based fare collection system, and in January, it will host two open houses to discuss the planned upgrades.
- Linda Katz will share a link to the Economic Progress Institute's report on the standard of need in Rhode Island.
- Maureen Maigret reported on Age Friendly RI's training program on using Uber and Lyft, which was funded through a grant from the AARP Foundation.

The meeting adjourned at 2:33 PM.

Attachment: Attendance List

**Human Services Transportation Coordinating Council
December 20, 2018 Attendance List**

Council Members/Designees	Organization	Present?
Amy Pettine	Rhode Island Public Transit Authority	Yes
Michelle Szylin	Division of Elderly Affairs	Meghan Connelly, designee
Christopher Durand	Rhode Island Public Transit Authority	Yes
Don Rhodes	RIPTA Riders Alliance	Randall Rose, designee
Kasim Yarn	Office of Veterans Affairs	Michael Jolin, designee
Lisa Vura-Weis	Executive Office of Health & Human Services	Dacia Read, designee
Maureen Maigret	Long Term Care Coordinating Council	Yes
Rebecca Boss	BHDDH	Thomas Martin, designee*
Rui Cabral	RIPTA Accessible Transportation Advisory Committee	Yes
Other Invitees	Organization	Present?
Bob Marshall	RI Developmental Disabilities Council	Yes
Gregory Nordin	Rhode Island Public Transit Authority	Yes
Joelle Kanter	Rhode Island Public Transit Authority	Yes
Laurie Brayton	Rhode Island Public Transit Authority	Yes
Linda Katz	Economic Progress Institute	Yes
Marjorie Waters	RI Organizing Project	Yes
Ray Gagne	RI Organizing Project	Yes
Rose Jones	Executive Office of Health & Human Services	Yes*
Sarah Ingle	Rhode Island Public Transit Authority	Yes
Shanna Vecchio-Schubert	Senate Fiscal Office	Yes

* By phone