

January 13, 2020 Meeting Minutes for the Rhode Island Human Services Transportation Coordinating Council

The Coordinating Council meeting was held at RIPTA's headquarters, 705 Elmwood Avenue, Providence, and was called to order at 2:03 PM. An attendance sheet is attached to these minutes. The Council agreed to table approval of the minutes of the November 20, 2019 meeting until March.

The meeting began with a status update on the Coordinating Council's 2019 annual report. Several members shared feedback for RIPTA staff to incorporate into a final version. A link should be available on the Coordinating Council's web page and next newsletter.

Attendees then reviewed a draft 2020 Coordinating Council work plan which features ongoing core activities that aim to strengthen partnerships, improve communication, and gather, analyze and share data. Sarah Ingle, RIPTA long range planning manager, highlighted background information including the update of the federally required Coordinated Plan in January 2018. Before leading a discussion about new priority projects, she noted that some of the plan's recommendations are already in process, while others may soon begin implementation.

- Support for volunteer driver programs: The Council discussed eligibility for the gas mileage reimbursement (GMR) program which currently applies to the Medicaid program but not the Elderly Transportation Program (ETP). This may assist with growing volunteer driver programs, particularly in rural areas. Recommendations included contacting partners such as the Village Commons, the RSVP program, and the Rhode Island Senior Center Directors Association and the state Senior Corps to match volunteers with senior centers. Paul Salera offered to share a list of volunteer transportation providers across the state.
- Fare integration: RIPTA's new account-based WAVE fare system is currently in Beta testing. The system will create opportunities to develop more partnerships and will affect relationships with organizations that already purchase RIPTA fare products in bulk, including the state's Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) program. In response to Council members' requests for more information about WAVE implementation, RIPTA will put together FAQs and schedule a presentation at the next meeting.

- One-call/one-click: This project was one of the primary recommendations from the Coordinated Planning process and requires the willingness of transportation providers to participate. A one-call/one-click system would provide a single source of information for travel options within Rhode Island, offering customers personalized menus by phone or online. Ultimately, it could become a scheduling resource, allowing customers to book travel directly.
- Travel training will have an increased focus this year.
- Vehicle procurement will become a priority in the second half of the year. Several local communities are currently slated to receive vans, but it will be important for the Coordinating Council to access community investment funds to set up an ongoing vehicle sharing partnership.

The Coordinating Council also discussed structural issues related to ongoing activities:

- There was interest in setting up working groups on key projects instead of establishing formal subcommittees.
- The Council will create a plan for developing partnerships with local communities and may involve local representatives in those working groups, as appropriate. It will also support Age-Friendly efforts in local communities.
- Rather than continuing the speaker series at every meeting, members expressed interest in scheduling presentations at every other meeting, focusing on RIPTA-related information that they could share with their colleagues.
- Updates on priority projects should be shared at every meeting.

Member updates:

- Catherine Taylor, new director of Age-Friendly RI, announced a new 3-year grant through Tufts Health Plan to focus on transportation, food, and housing needs at the grassroots level. AFRI will continue working with municipalities on Age-Friendly plans and will establish a civic engagement academy for seniors.
- Council members are encouraged to share suggestions for the community action program (CAP) agencies' needs assessments, which will reach thousands of clients this summer.

The meeting adjourned at 3:27 PM.



**Human Services Transportation Coordinating Council
January 13, 2020 Attendance List**

Council Members	Organization	Present?
Rui Cabral	Accessible Transportation Advisory Committee	By phone
Maria Cimini	RI Department of Human Services	Yes
Barbara Henry	Rhode Island Transit Riders	Yes
Sarah Ingle	Rhode Island Public Transit Authority	Yes
Joelle Kanter	Rhode Island Public Transit Authority	Yes
Maureen Maignet	Long Term Care Coordinating Council	By phone
Greg Nordin	Rhode Island Public Transit Authority	Yes
Paul Salera	Westbay CAP	Yes
Catherine Taylor	Age-Friendly RI	By phone
Mackenzie Thiessen	RI Office of Healthy Aging	Yes