

# Region 3 Regional Coordinating Council for Community Transportation

## Introduction

The need to provide transportation services to people who do not have access to reliable transportation options due to age, disability, income or other reasons has been identified as an issue in central New Hampshire for many years. In response to these issues, a Coordinated Transit & Human Services Transportation Plan was developed by the region's stakeholders in early 2010 with assistance from staff members from the Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission (CNHRPC) and the Lakes Region Planning Commission (LRPC). The Region 3 area consists of Belknap County, Merrimack County (excluding Hooksett) and the towns of Deering and Hillsborough from Hillsborough County. During this process stakeholders from throughout the region came together to better understand and better define their unique community transportation needs.

In addition to the many benefits of coordinated community transportation espoused by the Statewide Coordinating Council and other regions, the Region 3 RCC sees the coordination process as an opportunity to increase services for its citizenry by building new community transportation services in the region. Another key role that the Region 3 RCC has is to represent its citizenry's interests in making connections and have an active ongoing dialogue with multiple neighboring regions, and the SCC in order to explore new community transportation development opportunities. Also important to the Region 3 RCC, is the notion that the "community" in community transportation involve as much of the community as possible instead of focusing on disenfranchised groups only. Therefore, the mission of the Region 3 Regional Coordinating Council was established to be:

**To improve mobility and access for all by coordinating regional and local community transportation services and information.**

## Composition of the Region 3 Regional Coordinating Council:

Ex-officio members of the Region 3 RCC will include Patrick Herlihy, Transportation Coordinator from the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services and Christopher Morgan, Administrator of the Bureau of Rail and Transit at the New Hampshire Department of Transportation.

Members of the Region 3 RCC include the following organizations that use, provide, purchase, or advocate for transportation services within the RCC Region. Members that have signed MOUs to date include:

- Central NH Regional Planning Commission
- Community Action Program Belknap-Merrimack Counties, Inc., Pam Jolivet/James Sudak & Brian Hoffman
- Community Bridges, Bob Lethbridge

- Genesis Behavioral Health, Kristen Welch
- Granite State Independent Living, Ken Hazeltine
- Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce, Colleen Elliott
- Lakes Region Partnership for Public Health, Lisa Morris
- Merrimack County Dept. of Corrections, Joyce Martin & Melissa Palelli
- NH Association of the Blind, Guy Woodland
- NH Office of Employment Security, Carol Cantin
- Town of Hillsborough, Dana P. Brien & Shane O' Keefe

A number of citizens have been identified for membership of the Region 3 RCC. Scott Osgood, Vice-Chair of the CNHRPC's Transportation Advisory Committee will likely be the Region 3 RCC's first citizen member.

### **Year 1 Work Plan**

The following work plan will guide the Region 3 RCC during its first year of operation. Staff members from the CNHRPC & LRPC will provide administrative support throughout the process.

- Appoint a nominating committee to propose a slate of RCC officers. **(short term)**
- RCC leadership to establish subcommittees as needed to work on specific work plan elements. **(short term)**
- Develop a communications strategy to inform and engage the public in the Region 3 RCC's activities, goals, and plans. **(short term)**
- Develop a strategy for communicating with Region 3 stakeholders, the State Coordinating Council, its subcommittees, and neighboring RCCs. **(short term)**
- Update the regional ride access resource directory with the intention of providing information and referrals for users – who uses services, where do they go, how do they pay. Make information available electronically utilizing the existing directory template - Update the data through a survey of existing providers to understand who has what. **(short term)**
- Establish a membership committee to increase stakeholder base through a variety of outreach methods. **(ongoing)**
- Assess the current level of coordination and reach consensus on short, medium and long term coordination improvements. **(ongoing)**
- Engage in dialogue with other RCCs, NHDOT and other relevant stakeholders regarding opportunities for shared ride transportation improvements and connections. **(ongoing)**

- Work with state officials to determine contract requirements and expectations for an eventual Regional Transportation Coordinator. **(ongoing)**
- Reach consensus on adopting tools and strategies to document unmet community transportation needs. **(ongoing)**
- Re-evaluate goals and accomplishments at the end of the Region 3 RCC's first year as well as the existing mission and vision statement. **(medium term)**
- Analyze and understand cost-allocation and program billing guidelines that must be met. **(long term)**

Organizational Documents – Bylaws, Conflict of Interest Policy, and signed MoUs are attached to this document as Appendices A – C.

# Appendix A: Region 3 RCC Bylaws

# Appendix B: Region 3 RCC Conflict of Interest Policy

## Appendix C: Signed MOUs