

## **Transportation Subcommittee Meeting Human Services Coordinating Council**

August 3, 2015 at 1pm  
NECCOG, 125 Putnam Pike, Dayville, CT

Members Present: Rose Kucinich (WRTD), Linda Lamoureux (Arc of Quinebaug Valley), Anne Miller (TEEG)

Others Present: John Filchak (NECOOG), Hoween Flexer (NECCOG), Sam Alexander (NECCOG), Lisa Rivers (Conn DOT), Alicia Gonzalez (Conn DOT)

Called to Order: 1:10pm

HSCC Overview: Hoween and John

- Role of the Council was explained, as well as the costs of human Services annually.
- With transportation playing a large piece in the other three subcommittees (health, employment and housing) Conn Dot is here to speak about their role in the region as well the projects they are working on: Statewide Bus Study, the Long Term Transportation Plan and the Locally Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan

Introduction of Guest Speaker: Lisa Rivers and Alicia Gonzalez

Lisa discussed her role at DOT, working on the State Transportation plan, alternative transportation options as they relate to human services

- Transit Voucher Program
- CT Rides
- Job Access Program: Started in 1998 with extended routes and hours and continued after FTA funding was cut with Taxi and mileage reimbursements, etc.
- Statewide Bus Study in being completed, using performance metrics
- Transit Propensity: Likelihood of transit users in a ... Place
- Packet Materials provided to identify persons in the region with no transportation
- Many towns do not have access to walkable conveniences – supermarkets. Distance is an issue
- Most Windham County Residents are not transit savvy and have an unrealistic idea of how the bus routes and schedules
- There is transit training available through the Kennedy Center to help people learn how to ride the bus.
- The Senior Centers could benefit from a discussion with transit and NECTD could gauge the need
- Elderly/Disabled is another alternative and has been very successful
- There are opportunities for municipalities and non-profits to better advertise the service
- WRTD has been conducting senior outreach
- Seniors sometime feel very vulnerable waiting for and using the bus
- There are misconception about the wheelchair list and accessibility

- CT Fast Track has improved the wheelchair loading process with a front or rear loading ramp, where a person can face the front or the back while on the lift
- There are plans to make the bus location trackable through our GIS system, routing software and plans to make an application to track the bus
- There are state funds available to municipalities
- 5310 is also available for towns and non-profits for use in a new program that awards funding for the expansion of ADA services in areas and times not serviced. It's a broad program with a travel voucher component through 5310
- Largest challenge related to transit and employment is the virtual elimination of the three shift positions, many large employers don't have the traditional shifts and most work is demand driven. Most large companies are bringing people from large concentrated population areas and busing them in
- Both NECTS and DOT had discussions with the casinos to line up service with shifts- it was very problematic as the casinos are not very flexible
- Some businesses are very accommodating with transit rides, but this is the exception
- 5310 could fund handicap accessible taxis with lifts
- There are discussions with Worcester to provide linkage between the two districts
- There will also be an increased demand for another Danielson/Willimantic Run, as the Windham Court will be closing
- WRTD and NECTD need to add a mid-day connector
- This is on the radar for DOT and will be well reviewed

#### Overview of the Packets Provided:

- Northeastern CT Transportation Information
- Locally Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan for the State of CT; Overview of needs, agencies and funding
- Attachment 3: FAQ's for Human Services and Surveys for Non-Profits
- This plan to will need to be updated and a local one would also be beneficial through this subcommittee
- Overview of Local Fixed Route Service in CT
- Existing Conditions: Connecticut Statewide Bus Study (DRAFT) NECTD
- We need to address the hospital consolidations as part of the regional and state evaluation
- Some of the town services by WRTD are using municipal monies to provide hospital transportation
- Post hospital transportation is the biggest challenge

#### Discussion:

NECTD can come to any of the non-profits to speak about the bus, routes and services. We also provide discounted ticket packets and non-profits can also purchase tickets to give to clients, as needed

Veterans' access to services is also something NECTD is working on with WRTA and our federal leaders

The region has some of the worst social and economic conditions in the state with large transportation and employment issues

There is a disconnect between mill villages and the other areas of town – high income earning skew that data

Work Plan and meeting schedule was discussed. All information will be email out to committee members and posted to the NECCOG website for review

Meeting Adjourned at: 2:20pm