

## NV RCC Meeting Notes 4-28-17

### Attendees:

<p>Beth Weirling, The Kraft Group          Brian Johnson, BWT EMTerprises          Carol O'Neil, Dedham Housing Authority          Cheryl Phoenix, TransAction Assoc          Cynthia Curran, Mass Commission for the Blind          Elizabeth Harvey, Metro Boston MPO          Jamie Brenner Guttner, COA Board for Needham          Jenna Henning, Mass Mobility          Jennifer Rowe, Metro Boston MPO          Joanne LaFerrara, GATRA          Karen Dumaine, NV TMA, TransAction Assoc          David Manchester, NV TMA, TransAction Assoc</p>	<p>Kathie Medeiros, COA-Sharon          Laura Smead, Town Planner, Canton          Michele Brooks, TransAction Assoc – Bedford DASH          Paige Duncan, Town Planner, Foxborough          Pam Chubet, Norwood Housing Authority          Pam McGuire, COA, Foxborough          Peter McFarland, The Allied Group          Sheryl Leary, HESSCO          Susan Bernstein, COA-Medfield</p>
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### The Bedford Dash – Presented by Michele Brooks, TransAction Associates

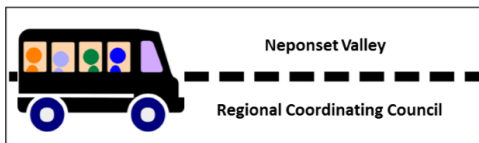
- 2 year pilot program funded by the Town of Bedford budget and Community Transit Grant.
- Program started in September 2016. Provides access for all town residents. Modeled after Town of Acton MinuteVan's Dial-A-Ride program.
- Pilot has been very successful.
- Operates Monday–Thursday 12:00 PM – 6:00 PM, Friday 2:00 PM – 6:00 PM
- Passengers call dispatch Monday – Friday to book trips or schedule online. Dispatch is located at TransAction Assoc in Woburn.
- Drivers are scheduled daily with the use of tablets.
- Fridays the shuttles are only being used between 12-2 pm for the Dash and Dine. Connecting area businesses to local restaurants.
- 997 trips since the start of the program Sept 2016.
- Breakdown of ridership reflects primary use for social, shopping, medical, school, work, misc.
- This model would be a great fit for many communities.

### Peter MacFarland and Kathie Medeiros,

Kathie from the Sharon Adult Center and Peter from the Allied Group have worked on the subcommittee to develop the inventory transportation for the NV RCC region. The subcommittee has developed a survey and reviewed feedback. Survey will be sent to as many distribution lists as possible. Kathie collected contact information for the COA's in the region – only one has not responded. The Subcommittee will work on getting the survey distributed prior the next meeting. Kathie Medeiros, Sharon Adult Center also discussed transportation available at the COA and how they will go above and beyond to help people to get to off hour appointments and that they don't just focus on Sharon they are transporting from local town to town service.

### Sheryl Leary, HESSCO, Needs Assessment

Executive Office of Elder Affairs reviewed HESSCO needs assessment.



The needs assessment process completed in the HESSCO-area showed a request for focus on non-medical and social transportation by the senior residents. She said that people expressed wanting to engage in activities such as going to the movies. Shuttle riders were also asking what's available, easy accessibility not having to call multiple places or having to work with multiple providers. They just want it as easy as possible to talk with one person. They would also like transportation that crosses multiple borders, and transportation at a reasonable cost for all.

At recent HESSCO meeting with COAs, one main topic of discussion was the CrossTown Connect model. Sheryl recently toured the dispatch operation for CrossTown Connect. Other COAs are interested in learning more and viewing the dispatch center.

- Anyone interested in touring the operation should contact Sheryl and she will arrange for a meeting with TransAction Assoc/CrossTown Connect.

**Community Transit Grant:** Jenna Henning, MassMobility spoke about the grant process for the Community Transit Grant Program through MassDOT. Interested participants should register for 3 upcoming mandatory application training sessions across the state. **Training sessions will cover program eligibility and requirements, the online application process, application content, and tips for completing a successful application.**

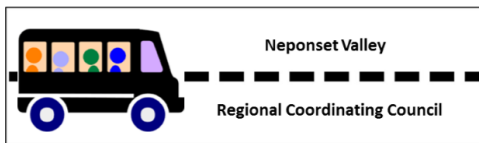
**Training sessions May 5, 9, and 12.** These are robust training sessions to learn about the Grant Process. Sessions are 4 hours. Applications process opens May 15. Applications due June 12, Notifications due in Fall 2017. Applicants must use MassDOT's online grant application system, [GrantsPlus](#), to submit applications. Applicants are encouraged to submit applications before the deadline. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

Community Transit Grant provides funding to assist with mobility management activities, the purchase of capital equipment, and operational costs to meet the mobility needs of seniors (sixty-five years and over) and individuals with disabilities of any age. Community Transit Grant can be used toward funding vehicles, vehicle tablets, operational costs. Grant was used for the Dispatch Call Center for both Bedford and CrossTown Connect, Acton programs.

Eligible applicants include Municipalities, RTAs, Private Non-Profits for unmet needs for residents.

**Boston Region MPO – Planning Process Discussion - Betsy Harvey and Jennifer Rowe,** Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is responsible for conducting the federally required metropolitan transportation-planning process for the Boston metropolitan area. The MPO uses this process to develop a vision for the region and then decides how to allocate federal and state transportation funds to programs and projects – roadway, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian – that support that vision. This vision is integral to each of the certification documents: Long-Range Transportation Plan, Transportation Improvement Program and Unified Planning Work Program.

Boston Region MPO Board meets every other Thursday. Public is welcome and encouraged to attend and participate. Meetings are held in the MassDOT building. The MPO hosts monthly



office hours in the afternoons following the MPO meeting on the first Thursday of each month. Opportunity for one-on-one conversations with MPO Staff to:

- Provide input into the MPO's transportation planning
- Discuss proposed studies or suggest new ones
- Discuss proposed projects
- Learn more about transportation planning and the programming of funds

Contact Jen Rowe, MPO staff, at 857.702.3687 or [jrowe@ctps.org](mailto:jrowe@ctps.org)

### **Round Robin – Discussion**

- HESSCO Meeting with COAs talked about CrossTown Connect and interest in hearing more about model. Group would like to coordinate trip to observe and learn more about the Dispatch Service at TransAction. Interested parties should contact Sheryl Leary.
- Joanne LaFerrara – GATRA mentioned a unique Social Consortium is being established in Attleboro/Norton area for low-income, seniors, disabled. No night or weekend service. State Rep Betty Poirer involved. Launch in September. Agencies \$500 donation non-profit.
- Needham COA is working with Uber and Lyft.
- Foxborough – Looking to make Mansfield Day. Service in town and out of town trips. Work with HESSCO, GATRA, Fish
- Sharon COA Goes outside of town. Norwood, Dedham, East Walpole, Cobbs Corner. Work with people to coordinate public piece other than commuter rail.

Recommend Including Clubhouse Directors in groups that could be involved for transport.

- Norwood residential people under 60 with no options. "Trans Fair Program" Purchase booklets of transportation can be used for calling cabs, organized bus. Under 60 eligible if documented disability.
- Medfield rely on volunteers for transport.

Next meeting July 25 at the Neponset Valley Chamber of Commerce, 520 Providence Highway, Suite 4, Norwood, MA 02062