



Approved Minutes Greater Nashua Regional Coordination Council for Community Transportation (RCC7)

Thursday, April 23, 2026, 10 am, Public Meeting with Zoom Option

Attendees:

Carol Brooks, SVTC*
Sara Ceaser, United Way of Greater Nashua*
Camille Correa, NTS* (Zoom)
Nonny Egbuonu, Community Advocate (Zoom)
Jon Eriquezzo, Meals on Wheels*
Maryann Gamache, GNMH
Amy Hunt, Disabled Veteran & Advocate*
Janet Langdell, RCC7 Chair, SVTC*
Jim Leach, HarborCare (Zoom)
Victoria Lee, GSIL* (Zoom)
Charles Lewis, SCC (Zoom)
Margaret Loret, Community Advocate
Lisa Ludwigsen, Easterseals* (Zoom)
Kerry Miller, RCC7 Vice Chair, NTS*
Thayne Miquelino, Lamprey Health
Rocky Morelli, Opportunity Networks*
Nick Schelberg, NTS* (Zoom)
Marcy Stanton, Wilton-Lyndeborough Women's Club
Amy Vazifdar, NCC (Zoom)
James Wilkie, Caregivers*

NRPC Staff:

Donna Marceau, Regional Mobility Manager
Matt Waitkins, MPO Coordinator*
Salem Quinn, Admin./Comms. Coordinator

*Denotes RCC7 Voting Member

1. **Call to order:** Langdell called the meeting to order at 10:01 am. Introductions were made. Acknowledgement that April is Volunteer Appreciation Month. Thanks to all for their efforts.
2. **Approval of March 2026 Meeting Minutes:** No edits were suggested. Tabled until quorum reached.
3. **Guest Presentation: George Anastas, Lowell Regional Transit Authority:** Tabled until the May meeting. The presenter cancelled at the last minute.
4. **Statewide Coordinating Council Annual Meeting & Awards: SCC-NHTA annual conference** information was included in the meeting packet. This is an all-day conference that will feature panels and speakers. We are to proceed with the notion that there will be funding for the Regional Transportation Champions this year. The Executive Committee would like nominations submitted by May 1st so they can meet the SCC submission date. Langdell will send out a nominations solicitation email to RCC7 members and participants. Lewis confirmed the information and that there weren't any other updates. He asked regarding the SCC strategic goal #1 about communication: has RCC7 sent information to Pandolph regarding the form? Langdell confirmed that written information has not yet been sent, but that feedback was solicited at a previous meeting that Pandolph attended. Langdell will follow up with Pandolph to share those recommendations in writing.



5. Regional Mobility Manager highlights and outcomes: Marceau gave monthly updates. Gave thanks to Caregivers, Greater Salem Caregivers, SVTC, HCMOW, CTVC and NTS for participating in the provider survey for community needs assessment. Great to see 100% participation from the core providers in our region. As usual, April was a busy month. Gave information about RCC7, transportation options in our region, and spread the word about CommuteSmart. Listed are events attended or planned to attend:

- a. Nashua Emergency Management Meeting
- b. Milford Sustainability Fair
- c. Nashua Sustainability Fair
- d. Public Health Fair at the Nashua Public Library
- e. Elderwrap at GNMH on W. Pearl Street
- f. Greater Nashua Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours event at St. Joe's
- g. Digital Equity group with Nashua Community College (NCC), where they donated a laptop and received something in return for Hunt to be presented when she arrives. Great group to help seniors with technology.
- h. Transportation Work Group of the NH Alliance for Healthy Aging
- i. Greater Salem Caregivers Volunteer Drivers event: they have 50 volunteer drivers

Egbuonu asked about the expiration for paratransit service available to Nashua residents. Miller answered that a person must reapply every 3 years, and NTS will reach out 3 months prior, notifying someone that they need to reapply. They don't ever want someone to have a service disruption. Miller stated she would follow-up directly with Egbuonu after the meeting.

General discussion about issues with Medicaid rides and transportation. It continues to be a problem. 2 calls were received where people had Medicaid. They couldn't reach out to family and friends. In these situations, people often don't have anyone; they are isolated. Medicaid transportation issues are on a national level. Perhaps this can go up to SCC or Conservation Law Foundation's Greater Nashua Transportation Equity Committee. Able NH May lunch and learn is related to transportation under the Medicaid waiver programs. Good that all groups are talking, and hopefully we can make a difference.

Since the March meeting, there have been 33 calls. The following are requests that we couldn't provide:

- a. 2 requests were on Medicaid.
- b. Request for a ride to the MA medical centers (Mass Eye and Ear).
 - a. With the new Nashua to Lowell bus route starting in July, people can get to MGH and Lowell General Hospital. However, there is still a need for transport to the Longwood Medical Center, which could be a good VIA project. Marceau emailed VIA a few times, potentially to braid the funding between the hospitals, the patients, and VIA.
- c. Request for Axuda loan. The program was discontinued in January 2026.
- d. Request, from a social worker, for a ride from Nashua to Milford 3X a week for dialysis. The patient ended up going to Nashua for treatment. There are often insurance issues about where a person can get dialysis.
- e. Request for a ride from Milford to Franklin for a social (non-medical) visit.



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- f. Request for a ride from Nashua to Tewksbury, which would have been over \$200.

Marceau reports that we are close to depleting funds for the Greater Nashua Community Rides Pilot Program. Looking for more funding. Langdell will confirm funding amounts at the next Foundation meeting.

Egbonu wanted to know if Margaret Loret was in touch with her transportation needs. Loret, present at the meeting, stated that she had been in touch with Marceau.

Langdell noted that VIA is an international corporation that provides ride services. Based on the presentation by VIA at one of our meetings, it takes over \$1 million per year just to set it up. Ongoing operating costs were unknown. Loret can get numbers from RI and Southern Mass, and what their funding sources are: State, Local Municipalities, and small passenger fees.

6. Executive Committee (EC) update:

- a. EC didn't meet in April but will meet next week. Officers are at the end of their term. As per the by-laws, nominations will be requested at the next meeting and then voted on at the RCC7 annual meeting in June.
- b. The Locally Coordinated Transportation Plan (LCTP) Subcommittee group is meeting on May 15th and making good progress.

7. Outreach Opportunities:

- a. Nashua Sustainability Fair is coming up.
- b. The Milford Sustainability Fair was in March and was a big success.
- c. Milford Rotary Club does an annual Senior Citizen's Chicken BBQ and will have a Senior Resources information table including RCC and transportation information
- d. On May 7th, there is a Volunteer Fair for United Way at the Nashua Public Library.
- e. Pickle Ball Tournament in May for United Way.
- f. United Way food drive in May.
- g. Over the Edge is a big fundraiser for United Way in June.
- h. Egbonu announced the Let's Talk Zoom Meeting, where some elderly people have been talking on Zoom. It's gaining momentum. Some younger people, usually children or grandchildren, have helped with technology. Reaches even beyond the United States. People from Nigeria have been joining. One person just celebrated their 80th birthday with the group. Those of us with parents or elderly ones who are no longer able to attend in-person meetings: they meet every first and third Thursday of the month, 12 to 1 pm. Please help spread the word.

Loret noted a problem with Zoom: that people who are on Zoom cannot hear people in the room at NRPC. Langdell agreed and noted that it has happened in other meetings. Waitkins will follow up on the concern.

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- Langdell noted that ever since FISH (Friends In Service Helping), a volunteer driving program, disbanded during COVID, the Lyndeborough/Wilton area has



been lacking VDP transportation. Trying to get CVTC, Community Volunteer Transportation, to expand to Lyndeborough/Wilton, since so many people go towards Peterborough etc. Langdell welcomed Stanton and was glad to have some new energy and champions.

Stanton, of the Wilton-Lyndeborough Women's Club, started seeing messages on Facebook from people who needed rides. Stanton is seeking an opportunity to get transportation for Lyndeborough. She sees programs like mobility rides, Souhegan Valley Rides, and any volunteer driver program, and has questions about liability. Would like to learn the next steps. Understands that the town must pay for part of it. Langdell stated that there are several ways to approach it and suggested that at their upcoming meeting, Marceau and Langdell could give a presentation, including an overview of options. When Souhegan Valley Rides went to Mont Vernon, which is comparable in size, there was a small cost. It wouldn't be 100% of the service cost. During the first year, grant money covered their cost so that they could try it out. It worked out, and they moved forward with services. In Wilton, we did the same thing with grant money for a pilot year. Afterwards, Wilton incorporated that amount into their health and human services budget. Stanton would like Langdell and Marceau to come and speak to the Women's Club and eventually the Selectboard.

Langdell explained that every time SVTC has mentioned Lyndeborough to the NTS staff, they get “green around the gills”. The challenges are roads, access, and distance. It may be cost-prohibitive for that type of service to go that far. Other models could be tried, and other partnerships could be made. Langdell recommends starting with a presentation of options and answering questions to gather information. That would allow us to take it back to whichever group we're going to go to, or we may go to multiple. First, start with the Women's Club. Potentially at the next meeting on May 4th in the evening. Morelli noted that the weather in that area can be tough as well, and the weather exacerbates the issues that exist. Stanton noted that 60% are dirt roads.

Langdell stated that some of the challenges in Lyndeborough are the same as they have in Wilton. Driveways that the NTS vehicle can't negotiate because of pitch or no turnaround. Langdell is hopeful that with all the Rural Health Transformation funding coming into the state, we might be able to benefit because Lyndeborough is considered a rural town under that grant. We could make a case, maybe for part of Wilton, too. So, there may be some ways to set the stage for the expansion of an existing service if those funds are available. Stanton stated that they're also working on Lyndeborough's Master Plan. She hasn't been involved with the transportation committee but knows the two people who are on it. Richard Herfurth and Dr. Roy, a retired dentist. Stanton will talk to them if something comes out of this to get it into the Master Plan.

9. **Other Business:** Caesar presented Hunt with a laptop as part of the Greater Nashua United Way's Tech Access for All program which is helping to ensure continued connection in today's digital world.

10. Meeting adjourned at 12:18 pm.

The next meeting is Thursday, May 28, 2026.

Respectfully submitted by Salem Quinn, Administrative/Communications Coordinator, NRPC