



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

Thursday, May 28, 2026, 10 am, Public Meeting with Zoom Option

Attendees:

Mike Apfelberg, United Way of Greater Nashua* (Zoom)
Bill Ayer, Voices of Major Drive*
Carol Brooks, Souhegan Valley Transportation Collaborative*
Nonny Egbuonu, Community Advocate (Zoom)
Jon Eriquezzo, Meals on Wheels*
MaryAnn Gamache, Greater Nashua Mental Health*
Linda Harriott-Gathright, Greater Nashua NAACP* (Zoom)
Ben Herbert, RCC8 (Zoom)
Amy Hunt, Disabled Veteran, Concerned Citizen*
Janet Langdell, Chair, Souhegan Valley Transportation Collaborative*
Jim Leach, Harbor Care (Zoom)
Victoria Lee, Granite State Independent Living*
Andrea May, Harbor Care (Zoom)
Kerry Miller, Vice Chair, Nashua Transit System*
Thayna Miquelino, Lamprey Health
Rocky Morelli, Opportunity Networks*
Angelique Pandolph, Easterseals New Hampshire*
Don Paré, Gate City Bike Coop*
Amy Vazifdar, Nashua Community College
James Wilkie, Caregivers*

NRPC Staff:

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

*Denotes RCC7 Voting Member

Guest Speakers:

George Anastas, Lowell Regional Transit Auth.
Tim Bomil, Lowell Regional Transit Auth.
Jenn Howard, Lowell Regional Transit Auth.
Dawn Marvin, Lowell Regional Transit Auth.

1. Call to order & Introductions: Langdell called the meeting to order at 10:04 am.
2. Approval of minutes (Attachments 1 & 2) **Action Item:**
 - **Motion by Pandolph: To approve March 26, 2026, and April 23, 2026, Greater Nashua Regional Coordination Council for Community Transportation (RCC7) meeting minutes, as presented.**
Second by Eriquezzo. A roll call vote was conducted. **Motion adopted** with Apfelberg and Harriott-Gathright abstaining.
3. Guest Presentation: George Anastas, Lowell Regional Transit Authority (LRTA), gave a presentation on the upcoming new bus service between Lowell, MA and Nashua, NH starting on July 6, 2026. This is a one-year pilot, with the potential to continue. LRTA is 1 of 15 RTAs in Massachusetts. The MBTA is a separate entity. The LRTA bus hub is the Gallagher Transportation Center, also known as the Kennedy Bus Hub, where most of their routes originate, including the new route to Nashua (Route 19).

The historically seasonal Lowell to Nashua bus route was successful, and there is demand for it to be a regular (not seasonal) route. Route 19 is scheduled to run Monday through Saturday. First departure from Lowell will be 6:45 am. Last departure from Nashua will be 7:45 pm. Route 19 is scheduled to run every hour in between the first and last departures. Just waiting on final approvals from a few separate parties. UMass Lowell students gave so much feedback that LRTA rerouted Route 19 to stop at the UMass Lowell campus. LRTA is working with NTS and MTA to ensure timely connections between all the services.



LRTA answered questions regarding Route 19:

- a. Marketing materials will be distributed accordingly as soon as they are available. Digital and hard copies. LRTA has a full-time social media person as well who will contribute to these efforts. There is nothing available yet as final details are being determined, and they are waiting for final approval from MassDOT.
 - b. The annual grant amount will cover four full-time drivers and all the operational expenses for two buses for Route 19. The cost is somewhere around \$600,000.
 - c. All LRTA routes, including paratransit and Route 19, are fare-free. That is expected to continue for the next two years as a state-funded initiative for all Massachusetts Regional Transit Authorities.
 - d. Route 19 will stop at the South Campus of UMass Lowell. LRTA will communicate with students and staff about this and the many transportation options for UMass Lowell at multiple locations. LRTA buses run every 7-15 minutes and can bring people from South Campus to East and North Campus.
 - e. Route 7 goes to Lowell General Hospital.
 - f. MBTA Commuter Rail from Lowell to Boston is \$10.50 one way.
 - g. For now, this is a pilot program running for 1 year, but there's the hope of having this become a permanent route in the future.
 - h. All LRTA buses have a bicycle rack on the front that can accommodate two bikes. They are also ADA accessible and can accommodate two wheelchairs at a time inside the bus. Bikes cannot be accommodated inside the buses, and fat tire bikes are too big for the bike rack.
 - i. Anastas' team only handles fixed routes for LRTA. Paratransit is available but is a separate team.
 - j. NCC and Rivier have working relationships with NTS providing free transit to students. LRTA has a similar working relationship with UMass Lowell, but since there is no fare, no ID is needed, and everyone is allowed to ride the bus for free.
 - k. General discussion about the various transit apps that are used.
4. Review & Approval of Greater Nashua Mental Health Center RCC7 membership **Action Item:** Langdell introduced Gamache, whose organization is interested in joining the RCC7. Gamache gave an overview of the organization and how they are coping with the loss of their building on Amherst Street.
- **Motion by Miller: To approve Greater Nashua Mental Health as a member of the Greater Nashua Regional Coordination Council for Community Transportation (RCC7).** Second by Apfelberg. A roll call vote was conducted. **Motion unanimously adopted.**
5. Review & Approval of Proposed NTS rate increase FY27 5310 (Attachment 3) **Action Item:** Information in meeting packet regarding the reasons for the increase. General discussion regarding the struggle of not having enough drivers.
- **Motion by Pandolph: The Greater Nashua Regional Coordination Council (RCC7) approves the revised purchase of services hourly rate of \$80.42 as proposed by NTS for contracted services**



in the Souhegan Valley during FY27. Second by Ayer. A roll call vote was conducted. Motion unanimously adopted.

6. Nomination of officers for FY27 (Chair, Vice-chair, & Secretary) to be voted on at the June annual meeting. The current officers (Langdell, Miller, and Waitkins) and members of the Executive Committee (Morelli and Wilkie) would like to continue for another year. New members are welcome to join, and the floor is open for additional names to be placed in nomination. No further nominations for officer positions were voiced. Hunt stated she would be interested in being part of the Executive Committee. Langdell noted that there is an issue in the RCC Bylaws concerning a residency requirement. . This recent finding might warrant a modification of the approved Bylaws. Langdell offered to follow up offline with Hunt.
7. Executive Committee update: Langdell gave an Executive Committee update. The quick Executive Committee update is that the Executive Committee did not meet. They did do a round-robin email for consensus. They received one nomination for the regional champion award that will be presented at the SCC meeting on June 4th. The nomination is a gentleman who works at Alpha Home Care. Apparently, he goes way above and beyond in terms of assisting clients and known residents with transportation to grocery stores and medical appointments. This example represents the spirit of community activism and community engagement around transportation, making sure that people can get where they need to go when they need to go, and have access to food and nutritional items so that we can avoid food insecurity. The Executive Committee will meet at some point, but the date is to be determined.
8. LCTP Goals Subcommittee Update: Miller gave a Subcommittee update. The overall purpose of the subcommittee is prioritizing the goals and strategies for the Locally Coordinated Transportation Plan and identifying actions associated with those goals and strategies. They started with the top 10 strategies and narrowed those down to a top 3:
 - a. communication and coordination,
 - b. technology and innovation,
 - c. and transportation services.

The Subcommittee is focusing on communication and coordination. They're in the process of creating a massive distribution outreach list comprised of important contacts to assist with achieving the goals relevant to the LCTP and for outreach informational purposes for engaging in the overall conversation about transportation in the region. A lot of these folks are community partners, or they work for an agency or an organization that's relevant to local transportation. There are often folks from the health care field, mental health, or someone from a nonprofit. If you know of a relevant community partner, help us make those connections. A lot of the community doesn't know what transportation is offered. Thank you to Langdell for graciously compiling this list. By the end of June, there will be an action item summary.

Miquelino asked about the availability of Spanish speakers and interpreters. Marceau frequently gets requests and can relay information in Spanish or Brazilian Portuguese. Miller added that NTS has access to translation services through the City of Nashua. At the NTS Transit Center and on board all NTS vehicles which are equipped with a tablet that has Google Translate. The driver and the passenger can communicate through Google Translate and have a conversation that way. NTS has many wonderful community partners that help us translate printed materials or communicate with individuals, including the city's public health department. All NTS printed materials, flyers, ride guides, and maps are in English and Spanish because those are the top two languages. But they can translate anything into another language upon request. And in addition, if someone is visually



impaired, they can get something prepared in a larger print and any other type of format that might be helpful.

9. Statewide Coordinating Council (SCC) Update: Pandolph gave an SCC update. There's a bunch of exciting things happening all around the state. 5310 capital grant applications were awarded to many of the applicants who are applying for that, and that includes things like 5310 vehicles, facilities, and those bigger capital items. SCC doesn't currently have a statewide mobility manager. Also, there have been some updates on the Rural Health Transformation Grant, which is very exciting. Fred Butler, NHDOT, shared at the last SCC meeting that transportation is on the bucket list for the Rural Health Transformation Grant. Once they get the first round of the contracts out the door, then they're going to start working on phase two, which will be the transportation piece.

As far as the community transportation needs assessment, we should be expecting some publications on the findings coming out of that project. For the SCC strategic work plan, they were able to get some valuable feedback from almost all the regions across the state about how we can create a framework for this communication using an executive summary. SCC will be using Region 7 as a pilot for this executive summary. Other regions will be able to read these executive summaries and see all the great things that are happening in other regions, and these will create more connectivity between the regions. Then the SCC will also be preparing information to go back down to the regions. If there are any questions from the RCCs, then the SCC can answer and have that information shared on a larger scale.

There was some discussion that these reports are fine, but wouldn't it be nice to have a quarterly newsletter that was statewide? How will we do that? What staff are available to do it? What resources would be needed? It could be a better way to connect all the RCC's, all the regions, and all the members. For example, there's stuff happening over in Sullivan County that might be of interest over here. One of the really great things is the work that Region 5 is doing. They're revamping their whole transportation system. They're launching what they're calling their next-generation transit service. They're planning to start that up in July 2027. Right now, they have requests for qualifications (RFQ) seeking transit providers to apply for service in their region. This was prompted in part by the loss of a service in the area, or perhaps it predates the loss of that service, but the timing is good. They had started looking at microtransit years ago, but recently one of the Keene services is the model that they're proposing. It has evolved in how it's going to be funded. The last thing is the NHTA SCC meeting. June 4th, next Thursday, is the annual meeting at the Grappone Center in Concord, NH. You can still register for \$75 if you're interested.

10. Regional Mobility Manager highlights & outcomes: Marceau gave an update on happenings since the last meeting. It's been a busy month, now that the weather is getting nicer. On April 27th, the Statewide Mobility Management had a 1-hour meeting, when meetings were previously for 2 hours. Region 10 is holding a provider roundtable. Region 5 is looking for a service provider. Region 8 mentioned that the MA Merrimack Valley service is moving into Salem. Marceau voiced the persistent problem with Medicaid.

NRPC applied to the NH Charitable Foundation for Opioid funds for transportation. Langdell requested a copy of the grant request or more details about the amount requested and how the funds would be used if received especially if the Greater Nashua Community Rides program or RMM would be involved.



Marceau noted that it was an interesting online process; Marceau learned a lot about their requirements.

Marceau attended the Silver Lining Fair in Nashua. Since the cost of a booth is so expensive, Marceau took a different approach. She talked to each vendor and told them about Regional Mobility Management.

Marceau attended a Community Publishing Roundtable and talked to the publisher of the Ink Link. [Nashua Ink Link featured the RCC7 Meeting and brochure.](#)

Fundraising efforts continue. Marceau received 46 calls since last meeting. Of those, one asked about Axuda, and one was Medicaid eligible. The rest of the calls received rides or assistance.

Langdell mentioned that regarding Medicaid issues, Deb Ritcey, GSIL, is on the WellSense advisory board. At a recent meeting, WellSense representatives stated that they never hear any complaints about covered transportation services. They were interested in learning more from the SCC and SWMM network. Ritcey initiated a follow-up conversation with regions 3 and 7 about how to move this discussion forward. Cindy Yansky, Region 3 RMM, is helping move things forward and provided suggestions on next steps.

Apfelberg gives kudos to Donna for all the work that she does in the community. As well as Andrea May of Harbor Care for all of Donna's help with Veterans.

11. Member & Community Concerns, News, Outreach Opportunities:

- a. Miller: Forgot to mention that the LCTP Subcommittee is working to better know our neighboring RCCs. They are getting on mailing lists and attending meetings. All RCC meetings are listed on the Keep NH Moving site if anyone is interested.
- b. Egbuonu: Had issues with the Zoom link. Quinn will follow up with her after the meeting to address the issue.
- c. Herbert: The new Merrimack Valley-Salem route in his region has probably had around 6,000 rides so far.
- d. May: She needs more NTS routes for clients getting to work. She also wants to know how changes can be made to NTS routes or how suggestions can be made. Miller gave a broad overview of services but can also talk one-on-one. Also, NTS offers travel training for individuals, as does Manchester Transit. Quinn will connect May with Miller and Herbert after the meeting.

12. Other Business: None was brought forward.

13. Meeting adjourned at 11:47 am.

The next meeting is Thursday, June 25, 2026.

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