

Regional Transportation Coordination Committee (RTCC) Meeting
Monday, January 7, 2019 at 2:00 PM at CDTC
Meeting Notes

1. Welcome/Introductions – present were Donna Stessel, Sunnyview Rehabilitation Hospital; Diane Conroy-LaCivita, Colonie Senior Service Centers; Betsi Lattanzio, Colonie Senior Service, Inc.; Renee Markle, Schenectady Senior and Long-Term Care; Greg Giuliano, Captain/Community Human Services; Bob O’Connell, Captain/ Community Human Services CareLinks; Kevin White, Schenectady ARC; Mark Castiglione, CDRPC; Mark Sheehan, Schenectady ARC; Marlene Hildenbrandt, Catholic Charities Senior and Caregiver Support; Maryellen Casey Usis, NNORC; Bryan Baszczuk, Acces-VR; Judy Dahoda-Taylor, Saratoga County Office for the Aging; Patrick McGee, Alliance for Better Health; Christine Cary, Town of Colonie Senior Residences; Denise A. Figueroa, Independent Living Center of the Hudson Valley; Charlotte Fuss, Coordinator for Senior Hilltowns; Lois Celeste, Saratoga Senior Center; Carrie Ward, CDTC; Rima Shamieh, CDTC; Mike Franchini, CDTC

Introductions were made around the table. Charlotte Fuss shared with the group that the Hilltowns is looking for a bus because the one they got from CDTA some time ago has broken down. Right now they can only transport up to 4 seniors in a van, and trips are limited to grocery shopping. Please contact Charlotte if you have, or know of, a bus they can acquire (cjfuss@yahoo.com). Maryellen Casey Usis of NNORC indicated that there were brochures available at the meeting so people can learn about what NNORC does.

2. Review/Acceptance of October 22, 2018 meeting notes – accepted as written.
3. Transportation Improvement Program project reviews

Carrie Ward summarized the TIP process and the RTCC’s role. CDTC received 100 applications in this round. Projects primarily include paving, bridges and bike/pedestrian projects. Notably, this funding is not like 5310 as it focuses on on-the-ground infrastructure. The timeline provided in the meeting materials can help you get an idea of how RTCC fits into the project review schedule. CDTC has not yet provided evaluation results to the sponsors. Sponsors will get a chance to review their scores before they are made public, and the Planning Committee will review all the projects and propose which projects to fund, before the Policy Board makes the final determination.

The role of the RTCC in this process is to review the applications and provide feedback to CDTC staff on any issues related to seniors, accessibility or human services that CDTC staff may have missed in their evaluation. Mike Franchini noted that there will be a public comment period in April so there will be additional opportunity for everyone to comment. Bryan Baszczuk asked what percent of the 100 projects will get funded. Mike answered that it depends on the funding source. The region will probably have about \$25-30 million/ year to program, and we received over \$550 million in applications.

You can take a look at the interactive project map on the CDTC website and click on a project for more information.

Bryan Baszczuk asked how we are to understand why these projects are important. Carrie answered that there is more information given in the application than what we can fit into the summary table. There are a number of reasons why any given project may be important for the sponsor proposing it. You can assume that the project is significant for the project sponsor.

The group's comments are listed below by project for which there were comments.

15: The lack of sidewalks is a big complaint from seniors in Saratoga Springs and "sidewalks to nowhere" is what the city is known for.

74: RTCC member asked if the sidewalks will be ADA-compliant. Staff replied that sidewalks can't be built or modified without making them compliant, but that if existing, non-compliant sidewalks are present but will not be modified, there is no requirement to bring them into compliance.

97: Project states that no ADA modifications will be made. CDTC staff will double check whether detectable warnings are required at the intersection at Sunnyside Dr. and Knickerbocker Rd.

51: There is a lot of commercial development pressure here.

4: Is the Albany Skyway similar to the pedestrian bridge built nearby several years ago? There are some similarities. The existing bridge goes over I-787 but it is south of the proposed Skyway.

10: Maryellen Casey Usis asked what the results were of the study along New Scotland Rd with Albany Medical Center and the City, and whether the results were incorporated into this project proposal. Mike Franchini answered that the results of that study have not come out yet but that he expects that the results will be incorporated into the project if it gets funded.

If you have any other thoughts about the projects, especially on how they may affect your operations, please feel free to email Carrie Ward.

Bryan Baszczuk asked about the total amount of project funding requested. Mike Franchini stated that he hasn't totaled up all the project requests but that it is certainly over \$400 million. We likely will not fund projects over \$10 million due to the limited funds available. Staff evaluates and scores each project. We present the scores to the Planning Committee and they work out who is awarded funds. If sponsors don't get the money here, they have to look elsewhere. Bridges tend to be a top priority because they can't get delayed, if you have to close a bridge it is often very difficult to detour around it. In the last TIP cycle we funded \$70 million just for bridges. A RTCC member commented that the high need for bridges speaks to the larger, national need for infrastructure investment.

Denise A. Figueroa commented that the roundabouts seem difficult for pedestrians to cross. Mike stated that this is an issue that is still being studied and that it seems to especially be a problem with the 2-lane roundabouts. Carrie Ward commented that this issue came up in the draft PROWAG and that the concern and possible disagreement about how to address roundabouts may be one reason why the PROWAG is not finalized. Denise also asked whether construction costs are included in the total cost listed for the projects. Mike answered that yes, construction costs are included and that staff evaluates each project for construction cost accuracy. Betsi Lattanzio asked if the cost could increase or decrease if the sponsor needs to change the project parameters once the funding is awarded. Mike Franchini answered that CDTC staff check the estimates so we know they are accurate. Sometimes there are amendments but it's not easy to get approval. Carrie Ward added that it does happen that sponsors try to change a project after it's been awarded.

A RTCC member expressed concern that project sponsors should know that they must be in ADA compliance. Rima Shamieh replied that they do know that they are subject to ADA. Most of the time when a sponsor indicates that they *may* make ADA modifications, it is because they are unsure whether ADA modifications are necessary for compliance or because there is no pedestrian infrastructure there now and they are unsure whether they will add any during the project.

4. Participation in emergency management response agreements, with County or other agencies?

Carrie Ward has heard that some agencies are coordinating with counties on emergency response. Is there anyone here who is coordinating? Saratoga County and Colonie Senior Services indicated that they are coordinating efforts.

5. Coordinated Plan

- a. A summary of the locations where CDTC staff has conducted outreach, the number of seniors that attended each event and the number of surveys completed at each event, was discussed. Carrie summarized what Carrie and Rima have experienced when they collect survey information. We pass out the surveys at the events and explain to the group what it is for. If someone is not interested in filling out a survey, we will engage them in a conversation to try to get some information about their transportation needs. So far it has been easy to get most or all seniors at the lunches to fill out a survey and/or engage in a conversation about their transportation needs.

Diane Conroy-LaCivita indicated that there were sites in Colonie that could be covered. Judy Dahoda-Taylor indicated that there are 4 additional sites that could be covered in Saratoga. Denise Figueroa offered to send Carrie contacts for locations in Rensselaer County.

- b. Survey for people with disabilities?
In past discussions the RTCC determined that reaching out to developmental disability representatives would be an effective way of addressing the transportation needs of those with disabilities. Is this still the opinion of the group? Denise Figueroa questioned why we wouldn't do direct outreach to people with physical disabilities. A discussion followed about outreach. STAR and the Independent Living Centers could be asked to assist, ACCES-VR could encourage people to participate.

- c. Numbers of people who are homebound
Carrie is looking for data on the numbers of people who are homebound in our region. She wants to get an idea of the scale, and ideally a count of those residents. How big of a population are we talking about? Does anybody have those data or know how to get them? The group explained that counties and other local municipalities maintain lists of people with limited mobility so the authorities know that they need to be assisted in emergencies. For example, the counties have lists of people who are on oxygen, who are elderly with no next of kin, or have some other flag. The lists are only made of people who have asked to be added. Sometimes the organizations offer to add a resident to the list but they decline and there's nothing they can do about that. Offices of the Aging will not have a complete list. Only people who reach out get an EISEP number. National Grid also keeps a list of people at risk such as those with oxygen tanks, but it is not comprehensive, either. So, there is no complete list of the homebound.

6. Guardian Society Senior Transportation Guide status

Nothing has happened with this project since the last meeting. They had a graphic designer lined up but that person fell through. They need to locate another graphic designer, specifically someone who is proficient in InDesign. Lois stated that she knew of someone who may be able to do it. She will send Carrie the contact information.

7. 5310 Solicitation

The contact letters for the last round of 5310 funding have been mailed. If you haven't received yours and you get worried, let Carrie know if you'd like for her to try to check on its status for you. She typically calls Tom Vaughan's office and someone helpful picks up. The new solicitation will be out sometime between now and March.

8. Transportation Gaps Focus Groups – executive summary

The executive summary is out. It summarizes the report's findings. If anyone wants a copy, let Carrie know.

9. Transit Research & Accessibility Center (TRAC) Project status

Carrie reported that they are having a hard time getting people to participate in the project. Although a training is required it is very brief. Carrie completed the training in only 5-10 minutes. Carrie has printed fliers available and will email it to the group as requested.

10. News from around the table: Other issues for group consideration/ideas?

Lois Celeste: In December/January the Saratoga Senior Center started a part time transportation service to help people get to the center if they don't have another option. The service is also taking people from the senior housing to Price Chopper.

Mark Castiglione: The 2020 Census is coming up. The state will be developing tools to help get a complete count. CDRPC is working with the Census Bureau to prepare for the census.

Denise Figueroa: The Transportation Network Company Accessibility Task Force will be meeting every week in January to formulate recommendations to the State Legislature. There will be a public hearing on the last Thursday in January in the Empire State Plaza. The recommendations will be based on what the task force heard from the public at the listening sessions. The concern is that Uber and Lyft are not helping the disabled population outside of the regular, existing services that are already available to people with disabilities.

11. Next meeting – April 1, 2 pm