

Capital District Transportation Committee

**Regional Transportation Coordination Committee (RTCC) Meeting
January 10, 2022 at 2:00 PM, held virtually on Zoom**

Meeting Notes

Present: Judy Dohoda-Taylor, Saratoga County Office for the Aging; Carrie Ward, CDTC; Robert O'Connell, CareLinks and CAPTAIN Community Human Services; Amna Siddiqui, Albany County Executive's Office; Peggy Osborne, Bethlehem Senior Projects Inc; Denise Figueroa, Independent Living Center of the Hudson Valley; Donna Stressel, Sunnyview Hospital; Marlene Hildenbrandt, Catholic Charities Senior and Caregiver Support Services; Diane Conroy-LaCivita, Colonie Senior Service Centers; Carol Rosbozom, Rensselaer County Department for the Aging; Debbie Engel, Town of New Scotland; Mary Forman, Schenectady County; Lois Celeste, Saratoga Senior Center; Brian Monaco, Center for Disability Services; Brian Cregin, Center for Disability Services; Audrey Burneson, NYSDOT Region I Planning; Todd Finkle, Rensselaer ARC

1. Welcome/Introductions

2. Acceptance of prior meeting notes

Accepted without changes

3. Presentation: Transportation and Race and Poverty report

Carrie provided a presentation on this report undertaken by CDTC staff. It explores how our regional transportation system and local land use policies disproportionately limit the ability of low-income workers and workers of color to access jobs. She provided an overview of how the cost of car ownership, the availability of transit, and the location of affordable housing relative to the location of low-wage jobs together contribute to the commute burden imposed on low income workers and workers of color. She also outlined recommends areas for additional research and policy changes that may help alleviate the inequitable burdens on low-income workers and workers of color. Attendees noted that the data discussed is not a surprise and is probably common knowledge.

4. CDTC updates

a. Municipal Transition Plans

[Glenville](#) is finished with its ADA transition plan. Saratoga Springs data collection is complete and a draft will be available soon for public review. The Albany data collection, which is the largest inventory in the region, is about 50% finished.

b. [Transportation Improvement Program solicitation](#)

Carrie advised that staff has reviewed applications received but is unable to share any of them due to restrictions on the ability to share NYSDOT projects. Carrie will advise when the proposals are out and available for public review.

c. Tools of the Trade 2022

Last meeting, we discussed the possibility of using an outdoor space in June. It was determined that Carrie would look into reserving a space, possibly on a Friday, that would allow cancellation on a small enough time frame so that we would be able to estimate the likely covid risk on the date of the event in time to cancel.

d. [Senior Transportation Guide](#)

The guide was printed and distributed – contact the Guardian Society for distribution and either Carrie or the Guardian Society if you have changes to your listing.

e. Health Impact Assessments

Carrie noted that CDTC staff are planning to work in coordination with local health department staff to develop a Health Impact Assessment tool and prototype that demonstrates a methodology to collect data, evaluate needs, identify mitigation strategies, and quantify health impacts of existing and proposed transportation plans, programs, and infrastructure.

5. 5310 Update: expected release late October – early November

The release is delayed as a result of needed changes to the state contract. It is still expected to be released soon. Carrie will forward the announcement to the distribution list as soon as she sees it.

6. News from around the table

Robert O’Connell advised that the Governor announced an upcoming [Executive Order for a Master Plan for Aging \(page 38\)](#). California recently had a broad effort as part of a Master Plan for Aging, as discussed in a [recent webinar by the Health Foundation for Western & Central NY](#).

Todd Finkle said that the Rensselaer ARC has had many covid-related issues and has been doing half-days to accommodate the current situation.

Denise Figueroa advised that the ILC-HV is still using 5310 vehicles to bring durable medical equipment to people.

Lois Celeste noted that the Saratoga Senior Center has been very busy, including with the community connections volunteer program and the van shuttle.

Peggy Osborne said that Bethlehem Seniors was in the process of opening again but has gone back to one person per vehicle, and is asking people if they are vaccinated because some volunteers will only transport people who are vaccinated.

Brian Monaco and Brian Cregin from the Center for Disability Services introduced themselves and noted that the Center has been operating with about half their former number of drivers, and has been doing double runs.

Carol said that Rensselaer County has only been able to fulfill about 60% of requested rides for medical trips. There has not been transportation to the Senior Centers, as those resources have been reallocated to the hunger and meals program.

Diane announced that Colonie Seniors received two new buses from the Mother Cabrini Foundation, and also retired two 5310-funded buses, which were both 11 years old and over 300,000 miles. The process to receive approval to retire the vehicles was tenuous, although it seems like issues could have been related to covid-related staffing issues. There aren't enough drivers to cover all requested trips, so they are prioritizing rides and asking people to schedule rides to more local medical providers. Diane posted a about the need for drivers to social media, along with a note about the social benefits of providing needed transportation. This produced a number of leads and a few new drivers. Colonie Seniors has also contracted with Albany County for meal deliveries and covid meal deliveries, some of which have been going out of county because the available space in Albany County has been exhausted.

Debbie Engel advised that the Town of New Scotland's biggest concern in the last year or so has been getting people to vaccines and delivering food from pantries. The 5310-funded vehicle has been out of commission for over one month now. Volunteers have been providing medical trips, but the increase in the covid rate has made it difficult to keep them. The Town doesn't provide any transportation to patients who are positive with covid, or to people who are unvaccinated. The Town has been working with Albany County to look into purchasing a new vehicle.

Marlene Hildenbrandt noted that they have seen an increased demand for medical trips, as well as a shortage of drivers.

7. Next meeting: January 10, 2pm