

MEETING NOTES from Neponset Valley RCC Forum:

Improving Transportation Coordination and Access for Consumers in the Neponset Valley

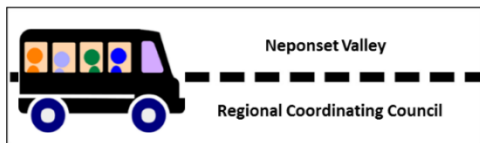
January 24, 2017, 9-11 AM, Dedham Town Hall, Lower Level

Participants:

Aniko Laszlo, MassDOT
Beth Weirling, The Kraft Group
Carol O'Neil, Dedham Housing Authority
Cindy Curran, MA Commission for the Blind
Joanne LaFerrara, GATRA
Karen Dumaine, NV TMA
Kathie Medeiros, Sharon Council on Aging
Mary Anne Kenney, Norwood League of Women Voters
Peter MacFarland, The Allied Group
Rachel Fichtenbaum, MassMobility
Robert Pierson, Norfolk County Volunteer Veteran Rides Program
Sharna Small-Borsellino, MassMobility
Sheryl Leary, HESSCO
Susan Quinn, Norwood League of Women Voters
Tom O'Rourke, Neponset Valley Chamber
Travis Pollack, MAPC

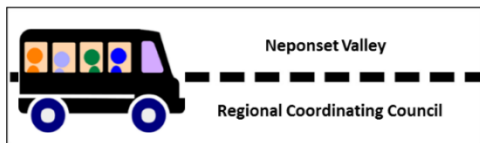
Introduction:

- The Neponset Valley Regional Coordinating Council (RCC) is one of seventeen RCCs around Massachusetts, bringing human service agencies, Councils on Aging, transportation providers, advocates, consumers, and others together to build relationships and address regional challenges to mobility for seniors, people with disabilities, and lower-income commuters.
- This RCC launched in June 2015 with a needs assessment. Since then we have held meetings around the needs identified in the survey.
- Our last meeting was held in March 2016. Our goals for today's meeting were to pick up where we left off and identify next steps on how we can work together to improve mobility and access in our region.



Open Discussion:

- Create an inventory of transportation services – at our last meeting, there was interest in developing an inventory of what’s available, and then feeding that into the online, searchable Ride Match database that is expanding to go statewide: www.massridematch.org
 - What’s available in community?
 - Who is the Audience?
 - Point of Origin & destination
 - Directory should be online and paper. (Many seniors don’t use technology)
- Coordinated effort with Businesses/Legislators/Medical/Retail/Hospitality
 - Need Selectman and Town Council to attend meetings and be involved
 - Need to bring in Legislators
 - Stephen Lynch
 - Senator Mike Rush (transportation committee)
 - Need participation from businesses
 - Find out all medical centers and businesses in region
- Norwood League of Women Voters Survey – 40-50
 - Created directory
- How to get the word out:
 - Senior Blue Book
 - Senior Community Rooms at Senior Housing Authorities.
 - Ask municipalities to post on bulletin boards and local cable stations
 - Low Income individuals are difficult to reach out to.
- Focus on Dedham Medical Building
- This effort will be more successful if we get the right players together
- Improve mobility/access to Route 1
 - Employment services on Route 1.
 - Transportation on Route 1
 - Seniors need to get to stores along Route 1.
- Inventory should include private shuttles then tap into businesses and resources. Make seats available
- GATRA Ridematch statistics recently 700 searches
 - Launched new website
 - Statewide appeal
 - Starts with Public Private Agencies
- HESSCO has a “Last Resort Option” funding rides to Boston.
 - Needs assessment every 4 years
 - Medical
 - Social Events – Other.. Movies
 - Para Transit
- Travel training



- MBTA Provides Travel Training to Seniors and people with disabilities to help them use the MBTA bus and subways
- GATRA and MWRTA also have travel trainers to help you learn how to ride their bus systems
- TRIPPS program in Brookline/Newton recruits seniors who volunteer to help other seniors navigate transportation options
- Norfolk County Rides for Vets. Volunteer drivers 1 ride per week. Not ADA. Free Service.
- READYBUS west of Worcester: senior transportation service opened seats up to non-seniors who needed help getting to work
- Marketing Multichannel – Integrate Communications
 - Newspapers
- Collaboration Partners
- MAPC
 - Inventory
 - What are the organizations who are providing transportation get for requests that they cannot fill – this will give us an idea of unmet needs
- Sign-up sheets for the sub-committee to compile the inventory of the area transportation resources were circulated. Four people signed up.

Next Steps:

- The RCC organized a subcommittee to develop an inventory in order to compile information for Ride Match and printed directory. All are welcome! Contact Sheryl at sleary@hessco.org to get involved – the first meeting will be in February at HESSCO – Date TBD.
- Next RCC meeting April 27 at HESSCO
- Save The Date for the statewide conference May 2 in Worcester: Please mark your calendars for Tuesday, **May 2, 2017** for this year's Massachusetts Community Transportation Coordination Conference! The conference will be held in Worcester. Registration will open in March. Contact Rachel at rachel.fichtenbaum@state.ma.us for more information

Contact information

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