

Neponset Valley Regional Coordinating Council

July 15, 2015

1. Welcome and introductions

2. Norma Fitzgerald – Sharon Adult Center

- The Sharon Adult Center made the news (“[LGBT seniors find a welcoming place](#),” *Boston Globe*, July 13) because of their multicultural programming for diverse populations such as Muslim, Chinese, and LGBT seniors, and others.
- Programming at the Sharon Adult Center serves individuals from throughout the region.
- The Sharon COA has transportation for seniors in town but does not have the capacity to help seniors coming to the center from out of town.
 - Perhaps town COAs could partner

3. Norwood League of Women Voters – Norwood transportation booklets

- Background: Norwood is cut in half by Route 1. A residential neighborhood is cut off from all the commercial activity and services. Crossing Route 1 is difficult and dangerous, and it represents a major barrier for people who do not own and drive a car. Route 1 lacks pedestrian or bicycle safety infrastructure.
- The Norwood League of Women Voters requested the MBTA to implement an extension of bus route 34E or run a bus route up and down Route 1. However, the MBTA said that they could not implement these service expansions due to lack of funding and difficulty of implementing stops along the corridor.
 - Route 34E runs along Washington Street from Walpole Station to the Dedham mall and on to Forest Hills station in Boston (http://www.mbta.com/schedules_and_maps/bus/routes/?route=34E)
 - People ride the 34E from Boston to their jobs on Route 1 but have to walk a mile. In the winter there is no sidewalk access, and they have to walk in the street.
- The League developed a booklet which outlines all available transportation options for Norwood residents (Transfare Taxi Program, Senior Center Bus, MBTA Ride, Commuter Rail, MBTA 34E bus)
 - 250 booklets were printed with the support of Dedham Savings Bank
 - Booklets were distributed in libraries, the senior center, the housing authority and private businesses
 - The booklets have been very well received and the housing authority has expressed interest in printing more copies at their own expense
 - The League may seek additional funding to publish more copies

4. Discussion

- The Sharon COA did a survey. People said they’d like to go to Patriot Place.
 - Teens/youth need transportation too
 - GATRA’s [Tri-Town Connector](#) serves Patriot Place but has low ridership. It does not run at night or on Sundays when teens need to get to jobs at the mall.
 - Patriot Place mall is slow on weekdays but busy on weekends.
 - Patriot’s Place: Potential to have employers involved in running shuttles (currently in conversations with Neponset Valley TMA)
- Towns along Route 1 could work together to implement a bus route on that corridor independently

- The Town of Dedham pays for its own shuttle, in addition to MBTA buses. Previously the MBTA helped subsidize this service but now Dedham is paying on its own.
- Foxborough has been working on trying to implement a shuttle service from Mansfield to the stadium
 - GATRA is working on a related effort
- The Chamber is interested in a Patriot Place Commuter Rail station (in process at MBTA) and service to the Mansfield industrial park
- It would be useful to create a regional inventory of all available transportation services in the Neponset Valley area
 - Transportation services can be added to the GATRA Ride Match online database: www.massridematch.org
- The Neponset Valley TMA is also working on getting employer shuttles in the University Station Shuttle area
 - Many employees live in Rhode Island so it might go to Providence
- The Ride Taxi Voucher program: MBTA - The Ride is rolling out a pilot program for taxi vouchers to shift Ride-eligible customers to alternative transportation options, such as taxis.
 - The RCC would like additional information
 - Abril will ask the responsible person at The Ride

5. Next Meeting

- September 16, 1-2:30 PM, HESSCO, One Merchant Street Sharon
- Other potential locations could include the Sharon Adult Center, the Foxborough Library, or the Public Safety Room in Foxborough
- If you know of other individuals or organizations that would be interested, please invite them!