

MEMORANDUM

TO: MPO Technical Advisory Committee
FROM: Scott Bogle, RPC Senior Transportation Planner
DATE: December 15, 2010
RE: Amendments to Regional Transit Coordination Plans

SAFETEA-LU requires all MPOs and rural planning regions around the country to develop *Locally Coordinated Public Transit Human Service Transportation Plans* as a prerequisite for agencies in planning regions accessing funding under three Federal Transit Administration (FTA) programs. These programs include the Section 5310 Capital Grants for Transportation Elderly and Individuals with Disabilities; the Section 5316 Job Access Reverse Commute program; and the Section 5317 New Freedom program. The RPC has adopted two separate, multi-regional plans to address this requirement – one covering the Greater Derry-Salem RCC/CART region developed jointly with SNHPC (originally developed in 2003 and readopted to meet the SAFETEA-LU requirement in 2006); and one covering the Southeast NH RCC/ACT region, developed jointly with SRPC and adopted in late 2007.

The Greater Derry-Salem plan covers the RPC region communities of Atkinson, Danville, Hampstead, Plaistow, Salem, Sandown, and Windham; plus Chester, Derry and Londonderry in the SNHPC region. The balance of 20 RPC communities, plus all communities in the SRPC region, are covered by the Southeast NH RCC region.

SAFETEA-LU requires that these plans be updated periodically, and that the plans be project specific. We are currently working with SNHPC through the Greater Derry-Salem Regional Coordinating Council for Community Transportation (RCC) to update the Derry-Salem plan, which should be completed in February or March. NHDOT has notified RPC, SRPC and ACT that the coordination plan for the Southeast NH region needs to be update in the coming year, and time is included for this work in the UPWP.

This fall NHDOT announced the availability of a special pool of funding under the FTA Section 5310 program, available to RCCs for Purchase of Service contracts. Both regions have been working to identify projects to propose for funding under this program. At the December meeting of the State Coordinating Council for Community Transportation (SCC), NHDOT clarified that any projects proposed for funding under this grant opportunity would need to be specifically identified in the *Locally Coordinated Public Transit Human Service Transportation Plans*.

While these plans for the Derry-Salem and Southeast NH regions include specific information about development of regional call centers and coordination practices, these plans are each several years old, and do not reflect work by each RCC in the past year to update needs assessments and prioritize project needs. The ACT/Southeast NH region conducted a strategic planning session prioritizing service expansion needs in April 2010. The Derry/Salem region conducted a similar session in September 2010.

In order to be eligible to apply for the current Section 5310 Purchase of Service funding opportunity, NHDOT has clarified that the *Locally Coordinated Plans* for each RCC region may be amended with this updated project prioritization information as an interim measure in anticipation of full plan updates to be completed in the coming year.

The following pages include updated project information for each of the two RCC regional transit coordination plans.

Requested Action - Staff ask the MPO Technical Advisory Committee to review the attached project list and recommend to the Policy Committee that it adopt the project lists at its meeting in January 2011 as amendments to the existing approved *Locally Coordinated Public Transit & Human Service Transportation Plans* for the two RCC regions.