

## **CTG Healthful Services – Transportation Action Meeting**

Tuesday, January 28, 2014

3pm – 4:30pm

Ellsworth City Hall Council Chambers- First Floor

**Call In #:** [1-832-551-5102](tel:1-832-551-5102)

**Pass Code:** 101003#

1/28/2014

Attending: Sandie Dubay, Jim Fisher, Sandy Duchesne, Jo Cooper, Valerie Webb, Karen Wilcock, Al May, Melissa Yerxa (DHS), Michael Shook (SW Harbor), Hank Stabler, Michael Reisman, Dianne Walsh

### **Transportation Health Access Grant Update**

- Jo Cooper – acquired new software “Assisted Rides” for coordinating scheduling software. May be possible for other agencies to log into the system and schedule rides or other services.
- Volunteers can log in and self-select to provide rides
- Can schedule other things in addition to rides.
- Has mapping and route determination mapping software
- Company charges based on the number of trips
- Volunteers can self-volunteer to drive or be assigned
- They will set up a separate cluster for their food delivery program
- Next steps
  - o Populate the data base
    - Clients
    - Destinations

### **Transportation Research – Sandie Duchesne- Greenlight Solutions**

- See [www.grow-wa.org](http://www.grow-wa.org)
- Vermont Project
  - o Experimenting with rural transportation solutions
  - o Using school buses
  - o Decentralized decision making
  - o Case Study: Windham Region Mobility Study – See Steadman Mill Consulting, Inc.
  - o Brattleboro was 1<sup>st</sup> route- used school bus (during downtime)
    - Initiated to transport teenagers downtown
    - Wanted to do this for commuters, looked for empty seats/trips so bus was filled both ways.
    - Used volunteer drivers
    - Had a conductor to organize trips
    - Business community kicked-in to have the free bus circulate around town-the “Jitney”

- After initial success with teens-went to a consultant to best use existing services
    - Look at unused capacity and avoided deadhead-empty seats
- Steadman Hill Consulting, Inc., for the Windham (VT) Regional Commission: Windham Region Mobility Study, November 2012, <http://www.uvm.edu/~jeffords/reports/pdfs/windham%20region%20mobility-study-final-report.pdf>. Point of contact for further information about this study: Matt Mann, Senior Transportation Planner, [mmann@windhamregional.org](mailto:mmann@windhamregional.org) or (802) 257-4547 x 108.
  - State investment in transportation is critical
    - Maine 11-12 cents per capita,
    - Vermont 85 cents/capita-
    - Vermont has Regional Commission to run the transit- has fixed route vehicles and demand response vehicles
- York Maine Study – use of tourist trolley from Sanford. Carries summer workers to the coast to meet summer employment demands.
- Discussion of Maine’s transit service restructuring. CTS (Connecticut Co.) scheduled Mainecare rides. Not successful.
  - Concerns about mistakes (underestimate our type of rural challenges)
  - No incentive to expand beyond standard ridership-especially Mainecare client base
  - Vermont chose not to go w/ an external broker- got a waiver
  - Penquis CAP in Bangor was already doing federal contracting so they could do own program.
- WHCA program in Gouldsboro, Blue Hill Area
  - Caring Friends-seniors pay dues for a subscription ride service. May get up to 4 rides/month.
  - Friendship Cottage Model- everyone has to pay something-sliding scale

At Home Downeast – Blue Hill Peninsula- Joan McCracken/ Ann Miller may be invited to speak

- People pay a monthly fee
- Assures a fixed number of rides for specific purposes
- Actively recruit volunteers, do volunteer recognition
- Supports aging in place
- Built around small scale-taking care of neighbors

Independent Transportation Network- ITN

- Portland Area – similar to At Home Downeast
- For blind and elderly
- Pay fees
- May donate own vehicle and get credit for rides
- People happy with the service

Jim demonstrated [www.GettingThereMaine.com](http://www.GettingThereMaine.com) website – concept for a one stop information system

- This is a product of the TIGER II Planning Grant- Stimulus money received by EMDC
- February 11, 2014 there will be a final presentation about TIGER II at the Cross Center
- Attempts to deal with a number of rider groups
  - o Medical / Services
  - o Commuter
  - o Discretionary
  - o One – time rides
  - o Distance travel
- Go Maine- run by Maine Turnpike Authority
  - o Commuter service w/ repetition or on a schedule
  - o Van rides available
  - o People pay a fee to ride each month
  - o State workers had a payroll deduction
- Presents information and contacts for different providers
  - o Fixed Route
  - o On demand
  - o Taxi
  - o Volunteer
- Dyan Walsh EAAA- frequent ride requests for non-medical transportation- pharmacy, groceries. There is no single answer
- Karin thinking about medical transportation
  - o Towns look to West Transportation
  - o Maybe charter a bus for teenagers to Ellsworth, Symphony in Bangor, Concert, Hollywood Slot, recreational ideas
  - o Blue Hill does a shuttle from the Parker Ridge Hotel
  - o Town could organize
  - o West Transportation does charter buses
  - o Currently discussing how to serve employees of lobster processing plant in Gouldsboro

Next meeting February 25, 2014 3:00 – 4:30 Ellsworth City Hall

- Speaker from At Home Downeast? - Joan McCracken/ Ann Miller
- Review key summit points that may be viable for team to work on.
- Read Rural Transit Article that Sandi Duchesne provided- for discussion