



Meeting Summary

Task 2.30

Human Services Transp. Advisory Committee (HSTAC)

Date: May 5, 2025

Start – End Time: 2:00 PM- 3:00 PM

Location: 1 Park Place, Albany NY 12205

Facilitator: Carrie Ward

Name	Title	Representing
Brian Monaco	Director of Employment & Transportation Services	Center for Disability Services
Angelina Searles	Director	Town of Colonie Senior Resources Department
Bob O'Connell	Volunteer	CAPTAIN Community Human Services
Ethan Warren	Senior Planner	Capital District Transportation Authority
Donna Stressel	Outpatient Therapy Department	Sunnyview Rehabilitation Hospital
Mary Forman	Planner	Schenectady County Senior & Long-Term Care Services
Peggy Osborne	Senior Services Coordinator	Town of Bethlehem Senior Services
Mark Castiglione	Director	CDRPC
Darcie Casey	Commissioner	Rensselaer County Unified Family Services - Aging
Denise Figueroa	Executive Director	Independent Living Center of the Hudson Valley
Judy Dahoda-Taylor	Deputy Director	Saratoga Office of the Aging
Diane LaCivita	Executive Director	Colonie Senior Service Centers
Steve Farina	Associate Capital Program Analyst	NYSDOT Public Transportation Bureau
Toufiq Zahan	System Specialist	NYSDOT Public Transportation Bureau
William Fitzgerald	Transportation Analyst	NYSDOT Region 1 Planning
Carrie Ward	Principal Transportation Planner	Capital Region Transportation Council
Ethan Townsend	Transportation Planner	Capital Region Transportation Council
Adam McCarvill	Transportation Planner	Capital Region Transportation Council
Leah Rye	Administrative Specialist	Capital Region Transportation Council

1. Welcome/Introductions
2. Public Comment – There were no public comments.
3. Acceptance of [prior meeting notes](#)
4. Saratoga Transportation Summit – The Saratoga Transportation Taskforce is holding the Saratoga Transportation Summit on June 10, 2025, 1:00-4:30pm. This may be of interest to anyone providing service in Saratoga County.
5. Albany Rensselaer Community Health Prioritization Meeting #2 – Led by the Healthy Capital District Initiative, the Albany and Rensselaer County Health Departments are working with the main area hospitals to create a priority health initiative agenda for the coming years. The second meeting will be on May 6, where a vote will be taken on which initiatives to adopt based on the feedback from the first meeting.
6. NYSDOT Rural Area Program Grant Solicitation – Grant applications for the NYSDOT solicitation FTA Section 5311 for Rural Area Program grants were due February 4. The award announcement is anticipated in June.
7. NYSDOT Enhanced Mobility of Senior and Individuals with Disabilities Grant – NYSDOT is expected to release a solicitation for FTA Section 5310 grant applications for the Enhanced Mobility of Senior and Individuals with Disabilities program in the fall.
8. Most Integrated Setting Coordinating Council – The next meeting is anticipated to be held on May 20.
9. Master Plan for the Aging Status – The last update the Transportation Council received was that the plan was supposed to be available in April, but the plan has not been released at this time, and there has been no further updates. Committee participants also have not seen any update.
10. Olmstead Plan Update Status – The plan seemed to be put on hold due to staffing changes. However, the Transportation council recently received a request for working group participation recently, and was told working group meeting invitations would be sent out soon. Seems to be ramping back up.
11. Aging Concerns Unite Us – New York State Area Agencies on Aging is hosting the Aging Concerns Unite Us conference on June 24-25 at the Old Desmond. Link to the conference is on the agenda. The representative (Katherine) was not at the meeting but Carrie shared discussion items from her.
 - a. The first item is Area Agencies on Aging using AmeriCorps volunteers as drivers and anticipating problems with reimbursements. Judy Dahoda-Taylor

- shared that in Saratoga they are using their own van but have unpaid AmeriCorps volunteers drive. Darcie Casey shared they are not using volunteers.
- b. The second item is regarding Area Agencies on Aging that provide transportation in areas that have fixed route transit available, who are beginning to deny rides to people who could use fixed routes at the times those routes are running to save money and stretch funds. Mary Forman shared that Schenectady County has, for some time, been trying to encourage people to use CDTA STAR if they are eligible.
12. Regional ADA Transition Plans –
- a. The Town of Wilton draft Transition Plan is being presented to the Wilton Town Board Thursday May 8, which will begin the 30-day public comment period. The plan is expected to be adopted in July.
 - b. The Village of Menands Transition Plan comment period has closed, but the plan has not yet been adopted.
 - c. The Town of Clifton Park and City of Rensselaer's transition plans have been adopted.
 - d. Albany County applied for transition plan funding during the most recent solicitation and was selected to develop the plan for County owned roads in the upcoming year.
13. News Around the Table
- a. Mark Castiglione: CDRPC released a report in February looking at aging, housing, and cost of care demographics in the four county Capital Region. The report is available now on the CDRPC website.
 - b. Darcie Casey: Rensselaer County Unified Family Services Department is waiting for delivery of four passenger vans which have had fund allocated, which are intended for aging services.
 - c. Brian Monaco: Center for Disability Services is working on their next 5310 grant to apply for another bus to help replace their aging fleet.
 - d. Denise Figuero: Independent Living Center of the Hudson Valley is having their dessert spectacular fundraiser at Franklin Park next Tuesday May 13, 5:30-8:30p.
 - e. Donna Stressel: Sunnyview Rehabilitation Hospital is kicking off its car fit season shortly with a technician training in Colonie on 6/25.
 - f. Peggy Osborne: The Town of Bethlehem Senior Services 5310 application was accepted, and they will be starting the contract process to get the van and computer system which will track rides.

- g. Diane Conroy-LaCivita: The Colonie Senior Service Centers got a grant to buy three Subaru Foresters. Last 5310 round buses were expected in August but showed up in April. Doing a fundraiser this Friday which has sold out.
 - h. Bob O'Connell: The Board of CAPTAIN Community Human Services is looking to expand options in southern Saratoga County. CDTA Flex system is changing from point-to-point service to curb-to-curb service. Feels that this change is going backwards rather than forward in providing service to people unable to walk to access the vehicles.
 - i. Ethan Warren: CDTA provided an update on CDTA Flex Update. Changes rolling out at the end of this month to both the Colonie and Saratoga service areas. Rather than pick-up and drop-off anywhere in the zone, it will run from dedicated pick-up and drop-off zones. Trying to balance convenience with financial operability. CDTA recognizes the many issues with both the current model and the upcoming model. Potential for fixed routes in Southern Saratoga if development occurs, but right now that is also not viable.
 - i. Judy Dahoda-Taylor mentions that the City of Mechanicville senior bus is now working more hours and can schedule appointments for rides. Stillwater Community Center for Seniors still has two buses. The need for additional transportation services has decreased in the last few months due to those two services.
 - j. Steve Farina: The NYSDOT Public Transportation Bureau is working with agencies to put pilot orders on the new contract. Hoping to get those completed to start taking new orders. Piloting the new order process from start to delivery, including inspection at the delivery for compliance with the contract.
14. Next Meeting – Monday, August 4 at 2pm
- a. Carrie asked if anyone has topics they would be interested in having presented to the group to let her know.
 - i. Diane Conroy-LaCivita: Recommended a presentation about non-traditional funding sources/opportunities such as foundations.
 - ii. Denise Figueroa: Recommended a presentation about the impact of federal change and executive orders for transportation programs. Mark Castiglione suggested that someone from AARP may be able to help.