



CHAPTER I

Introduction

North Country Transit—a service of Tri-County Community Action Program in Berlin, New Hampshire—contracted with LSC Transportation Consultants, Inc. to provide technical assistance and support as part of a project funded by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The project is funded by the FTA as part of the Public Transportation Participation Pilot Program. This project is one of seven selected nationally for the first year of the program.



The focus of the project is to develop an educational program to teach human services agencies and the public about the benefits of coordinating transportation services. The overall outcome of the process will be public awareness and provider participation in efforts to develop a coordinated regional transportation system.

The region includes Coos, Carroll, and northern Grafton Counties. Within these counties there is a variety of human services transportation. There are limited private transportation operators serving portions of the region. Public transit is currently limited to small portions of each county.

The participation of LSC began in November 2007 with a kick-off meeting held in Berlin. The purpose of the meeting was to inform participants of the process and obtain input regarding some of the possible approaches. Input was obtained from participants regarding appropriate strategies for educational materials and resources which may be used.

Technical Memorandum #1 provided an update of the inventory of current providers in the region. Preliminary information was compiled as part of the North Country Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan which was prepared by the North Country Regional Planning Council. Each of these

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providers was contacted to obtain the most current information. Other providers which were identified were also contacted. Updates of this information are ongoing as additional input is received.

This Technical Memorandum is the second of three which will be submitted during this project. The focus of this Technical Memorandum is on the benefits of coordinated transportation services. Chapter II briefly describes the type of benefits which may be expected from coordination of transportation services. These include direct economic benefits as well as enhanced mobility opportunities for users.

Chapter III describes various coordination strategies which may be considered and the specific benefits which may be expected from each. These range from cooperation to consolidation of services. Chapter IV presents a framework for the proposed education programs which will be developed and presented at a workshop to be held on April 8, 2008.