

Joint Transportation Committee

Status Report:

Special Needs
Transportation Study

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SHB 1694: Purpose of the Study

- Evaluate methods to improve transportation coordination for persons with special mobility needs
- Assess the role of ACCT (Agency Council on Coordinated Transportation)

Summary of Study Tasks

- Inventory special needs transportation services
- Identify federal funding & related barriers to special needs coordination
- Examine service models in & out of state
- Review siting of facilities serving persons with special transportation needs
- Identify methods to improve coordination among agencies and providers

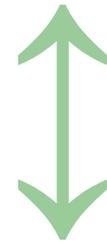
What is Coordination?

- Agencies and client groups working together to achieve mutual goals/benefits

Coordination Continuum: A Range of Strategies

- Networking
- Inter-agency cooperation
 - Referrals and sharing information
 - Uniform methods of billing and reporting
- Resource Sharing
 - Vehicles, maintenance, fuel, insurance, and driver/staff training
- Collaboration
- Consolidation

Simple



Complex

Potential Benefits of Coordination

- Improved cost efficiency
 - Through economies of scale
 - By eliminating or reducing service duplication
- Improved Access to Funding
- Service Expansion (area and hours of service)
- Additional Service Capacity
- More Mobility Options

Activities Completed or Underway:

- Introductory interviews conducted with JTC members and staff, Governor's staff, Secretary of Transportation
- Other stakeholder interviews with social service agencies, brokers, transit agencies currently underway
- Data Collection
- Literature Review

Inventory: The Big Picture

- How many transportation providers are there?
- Who do they serve?
- Where do they operate?
- What types of agencies? (non-profit, social service agency, transit operator, etc.)

Inventory of Existing Resources

- Making use of existing resources
 - WSDOT summary reports
 - SAFETEA-LU Coordinated Plans
 - 211 statewide database
 - Sound Transit's FindaRide.org database
- Status to date: Data collected (or requested) for inclusion in common database

Four Case Studies: Snohomish, Pierce, Yakima, and Lincoln Counties

- An opportunity to examine transportation network in more detail for case study counties
- Identify lessons learned, barriers to coordination, other key findings
- Explore specific coordination issues, including decisions on facility siting, funding barriers, others

How is special transportation funded in Washington?

- Consultant team is interviewing key stakeholders representing major funders of transportation, and collecting relevant budget data
- Three largest players: DSHS (Medicaid), OSPI (pupil transportation), public transit agencies

Funding Special Transportation: Study Goals

- Document amounts and sources of funds being spent
- Document how (or not) programs coordinate funding or service delivery with each other
- Identify funding restrictions, or other rules that may restrict coordination or access to available funds

Best Practices and Coordination Models

- Identify and evaluate a range of service delivery models and alternatives—what are some best practices we can learn from?
- Identify and assess models of other states' coordination councils or efforts and their applicability to Washington State

Forums

- Two sets of Forums will be convened:
 - May: Yakima and Snohomish Counties
 - September: Lincoln and Pierce Counties
- Participants include:
 - users of transit services,
 - local transportation providers,
 - social service agency staff, Medicaid brokers, Department of Social and Health Services

May Forums

- May 5
 - Yakima, EPIC (Enterprise for Progress in the Community),
 - In cooperation with Yakima Valley Council of Governments, and People for People
- May 7
 - Everett, Everett Station
 - In cooperation with Snohomish County Special Needs Transportation Coalition (SNOTRAC)

May Forums: Goals and Outcomes

- Learn more about social service transportation delivery at local level: who are providers and funders? How well do they coordinate?
- From customer and service providers points of view, what are major barriers and what are potential strategies to address the barriers?
- Opportunity for stakeholders to share observations, suggestions

Project Milestones

- May 5 & 7: Forums: Yakima & Everett
- May 13th: Policy Group Meeting
 - Review key findings from inventory;
 - Funding barriers
- July and/or August: Policy Group Meeting
 - Best Practices & Coordination Models
 - Reporting and Accounting,
 - Facility Siting
- September: Statewide Transportation Conference
- September: Forums in Lincoln & Pierce Counties
- October: Draft Report and Recommendations

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