



Agency Council on Coordinated Transportation

Planning for the Future

In August 2005, President Bush signed the federal Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). This legislation requires the establishment of locally-developed, coordinated public transportation plans for all human services transportation programs. Failure to meet the planning requirements would result in withholding of federal funding for public transportation projects. Federal funding for Washington State for 2007 amounts to more than \$14 million.

While other states scrambled to meet SAFETEA-LU's planning requirements, Washington was well positioned thanks to the Legislature's enactment of RCW 47.06B which established ACCT in 1998. During their first four years, ACCT facilitated the formation of 18 transportation coalitions covering 23 counties by providing technical assistance and limited start up funding. In 2003, ACCT lost the majority of its funding and was unable to continue financial support of the coalitions. However, when SAFETEA-LU required coordinated plans as a condition for federal funding, these coalitions provided the foundation for seamlessly integrating with the work of the state's 14 Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPOs).

In 2006, ACCT provided technical support to the RTPOs to facilitate the necessary collaboration and coordination to successfully complete the plans. The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) was able to free up funding from federal sources to assist the RTPOs with financing their initial planning efforts. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) have pointed to Washington's efforts as an example for other states and stakeholder groups to follow.

The ACCT website has links to all 14 public transit human service transportation plans.



Washington State
Department of Transportation



The Agency Council on Coordinated Transportation (ACCT) is a partnership of members from the legislature, state agencies, transportation providers and consumer advocates whose mission is to direct and promote activities that efficiently use all available state and community resources for special needs transportation across the state.

For more information, contact:

Robin Phillips, ACCT Administrator
Email: phillir@wsdot.wa.gov
Phone: (360) 705-7929
www.wsdot.wa.gov/acct