

Agency Council on Coordinated Transportation Meeting Notes
Department of Transportation
Large Commission Board Room
Friday February 8, 2008
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Olympia, WA

Welcome and Introductions

Chair

Don Chartock introduced Ryan Warner as the new Special Needs Planner for WSDOT's Public Transportation Division.

Approve Meeting Summary from December Meeting

Chair

The Council approved the meeting notes.

Membership Update

Ryan Warner

Association of Pupil Transportation (Jenny Bullard) and WA St. Transit Assoc. (Richard DeRock) positions are pending appointment by the Governor's Office.

Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment (formerly Margaret Casey) is currently open and actively being recruited.

Budget Update

Don Chartock

WSDOT's Rural and Coordinated Transportation team is now fully staffed and running under budget. There is a June 30, 2009 deadline for spending the ACCT budget.

JTC Report Status

Connie Soper, Nelson/Nygaard

The purpose of the project is to examine ACCT's role and effectiveness.

Connie has begun interviews and developing an inventory of existing services and vehicles.

The study will highlight four counties in Washington. They will come from both sides of the mountains and be urban and rural.

The study will

- Identify barriers and potential solutions
- Identify past best practices – models both in and out of WA
- Look at uniform billing and reporting

There will be two rounds of public forums. Each time one will be on the Eastern side and one on Western side. The forums will be very inclusive.

The 1st set of forums will get the process started

The 2nd set to be held towards end of review to provide status and results

Timeline:

- Data Collection Summary/Key Findings: May 12
- Identify Funding Barriers: May 12
- Evaluate Facility Siting: June 23
- Uniform System of Reports: July 21
- Models of Coordination: July 21
- Forums: Anticipated March and September
- Finalize Recommendations: September 8
- Draft Report: October 1

This will be a recurring agenda item.

Council Potential Work Plan

Don and Council

The Council voted to put resources into the following items. This includes the work of many Council and audience members.

Emergency Planning – ACCT is directed by enabling legislation to represent the interests of people with special needs to emergency planners. Staff will do some preliminary work with help from PACT members and then tap volunteers:

- Marilyn Mason Plunkett will look for a volunteer
- Alina Aaron, Human Services Council
- Cathy Silins will look to see who can help from WSDOT
- Jenny Bullard is looking into how schools are used. She recommended that we also work with Allan Jones (not in attendance).
- Mike Harbour suggested that we work through Richard DeRock (not in attendance).

Volunteer Drivers Guide – This is a highly viewed part of the ACCT website. It details how to operate volunteer driver programs. Staff will use PACT and recruit additional volunteers to complete an update of the document.

Unified Background Check Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) – Currently everyone who works for a transportation provider has to get a background check. Many have to do it repeatedly. We have recently completed a study that identifies most of the requirements for the different State programs. Many people have expressed concerns that it will be too difficult to change and not worth it. Staff will hire a consultant to do next steps, including a CBA.

Multifunction School Activity Vehicle - These vehicles can meet most FTA, ADA, and School Bus standards. It is currently very difficult to determine whether these are a viable option in Washington State. Staff will work with volunteers to develop an easy to understand decision-making tool for the Council.

State Wide Cabulance Regulation – Tom Young from Transpro suggested that the Council staff continue to work establishing a state wide regulatory structure

that will foster coordination as opposed to letting local jurisdictions establish competing and non-complimentary regulations.

Facility Citing – Karen Parkhurst pointed out that this continues to be a problem. Programs and housing continues to pop up in locations that have no public transportation support.

Legislative Update

Council Members

Mike Harbour presented some of the bills that the Transit Association is tracking:

- The **flag stop bill** (SSB 6569) would allow buses to stop on state highways and drop off people closer to their homes. This is important for people who may have trouble walking. The bill did pass in the house.
- The **handheld wireless** (HB 3261) bill would exempt transits from a new law banning drivers from communicating with handheld devices. The Senate may not be supportive.
- The **regional transportation governance** (SB 6772) bill expands power of the regional transportation authority (Sound Transit) to organize planning and operations in Puget Sound Region. The House will make significant changes.
- The **park and ride lot** bill (SB 6277) would allow providers other than transits to use park and ride lots.

Additional Comments

Council and Audience

Cathy Silins announced a mini call for projects for job related transportation in small urban areas. WSDOT is now soliciting projects to share the \$500,000 we have to use prior to 2009.

Mike Harbour pointed out that we should start working on what we ask the Legislature for next year. He hopes to work with other departments to combine efforts. He pointed out that the state puts in very little money compared to the local contributions. If we want coordination of additional services, more money is needed from state.

David Lord spoke about the Comment Process guidelines. He was concerned about the results. Don Chartock explained the outreach process that ACCT used to develop the Guidelines. He also pointed out that they are developing performance measures to monitor the progress made. Don and Ryan agreed to meet with advocates after the meeting.

Angela Barbre announced that CTA-NW has a handbook that lists the technology employed by many of the transportation providers in Washington State.

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.