

**Agency Council on Coordinated Transportation
Washington State Department of Transportation
Thurston Regional Planning Council
2424 Heritage Court SW, Suite A
Olympia, Washington 98502**

February 11, 2011

In attendance

Katy Taylor, Brian Lagerberg, Don Chartock, Page Scott, Todd Slettvet, Cindy Steigerwald, Glenn Gorton (for Allan Jones), Lynn Moody, Madelyn Carlson, Barbara Sainitzer, Tom Hingson

Council Business

Welcome & Introductions

After introductions, Katy provided a safety briefing.

Announcements

Katy announced that she has accepted a new position at WSDOT and will no longer serve as chair. Don presented Katy with a certificate of appreciation for her efforts with the Council. Brian Lagerberg will be Acting-Director of the Public Transportation Division and as such will represent WSDOT on the ACCT. Don explained that the Council needs to elect a new chair at this meeting, and that the new chair will begin his/her term starting with the April meeting. Page Scott was the sole nominee as chair, and was unanimously approved by the Council. Vice chair nominations will be discussed in April.

Approval of Meeting Notes

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the December meeting, seconded, and passed.

Budget & Work Plan

Don began by noting that the Council is about 28 percent under-spent for this biennium. We are spending a little bit more on program management and are still expecting future billings in on some of our other projects.

Work Plan Elements

SchoolPool Module

Cathy Silins presented a proposal to ACCT to use some of the ACCT funds to expand Rideshare Online (RSO), specifically targeting "School Pools". RideshareOnline.com is a convenient and easy-to-use tool for the traveling public; which helps reduce traffic congestion, improve air quality and sustain the quality of life in our region. Development of this tool has been taking place over the past few years, guided strongly by King County Metro. Many new applications have been developed to complement the existing Rideshare Online tool. WSDOT has identified about 400,000 of USDOT funding that will allow us to take this tool to a wider variety of people; however we cannot use USDOT funds for certain types of trips, including school trips. Most of the funds that we have identified for RSO are Job Access Reserve Commute, meaning it needs to be used to travel to and from work or work related activity. WSDOT has

received an estimate that the School Pool module would cost about 20,000 to develop. Cathy is bringing this to ACCT because the Council has demonstrated an interest in school transportation and children are part of the definition of special needs.

The second initiative for RSO is to develop a module to assist in the coordination and linking of volunteer drivers and trips.

Tom motioned support of Cathy's proposal to dedicate 20,000 to the School Pool/Volunteer Pool Program. The motion was seconded and passed. Tom agreed to serve on a committee of folks to develop this further. Don noted that this will be on a future agenda and Cathy committed to next time bringing Christopher who is the expert.

Local Coordinating Coalition *Pierce County*

Marge Tully provided an overview of Pierce County's local coordination efforts as mandated in statute by HB 2072. The LCC had 4 tasks:

1. Advise ACCT
2. Identify local service needs
3. Recommend strategies to meet those needs
4. Conduct a pilot a pilot project.

The LCC identified two policy barriers to coordinated transportation:

1. The policy of usual and customary fee in which Medicaid will only reimburse transit the amount an individual would pay for a bus ride. Example: if Pierce Transit provides a Medicaid ride they will only be reimbursed by the Federal Government the \$2.00 cost of a fixed route ride.
2. The payer of last resort: which means all other funding sources must be used before federal dollars can be utilized.

Based on the discussions, study and process that Pierce County LCC has undertaken over the last year the coalition provides the following recommendations:

1. Request Council support to recognize Pierce Transit as a Medicaid transportation provider
2. Request Council support to recognize and maintain 211 services
3. Request Council support for Volunteer Services, plus legislative encouragement to that end
4. Request Council support for legislative action to require human services agencies to reimburse third party providers
5. Request Council support to provide adequate funding for special needs transportation

There was some concern that the report presented by Pierce County did not represent full agreement of all participating parties. It was therefore decided to wait on a decision until a final edited report was completed.

Madelyn asked Marge to forward the full report to the Council. Council members are asked to forward comments to Marge so that she can take them under advisement.

Federal Opportunities Workgroup

Faith Trimble discussed the work of the Federal Opportunities Workgroup, which has concluded its work.

Overall the FOW was charged with looking at four different topic areas:

1. Cost allocation and cost sharing as it relates to the relationship between Medicaid and Transit.
2. HIPAA as it acts as a barrier to coordinated transportation.
3. Cost and reporting systems
4. Developing and confirming common definitions

The FOW broke up the final recommendations into 3 categories of recommendations:

Recommendations to the Legislature

1. Authorize the continuation of ACCT
2. Enabling legislation should be expanded to direct the Council to work on providing technical assistance for negotiating a comparable state human services rate
3. Enabling legislation should be expanded to authorize ACCT to work with DSHS to gain clarity from USDHHS to address questions regarding HIPAA.
4. Strongly consider Special Needs Transportation in any future transportation decision package.

Recommendations to WA State Administration Branch

1. Pursue an ADA referral policy where all NEMT paratransit services are arranged by brokers and funded by the Medicaid program. Transit agencies should then provide a referral policy by which all NEMT trips are referred to brokers.
2. State agencies should assess their data reporting requirements and eliminate duplicative requirements.
3. The Governor should issue an executive order to all state agencies that encourage federal, state, and locally funded transportation programs share trips when possible.

Recommendations to the Federal Government

1. The Centers Medicare and Medicaid should immediately respond to a September 2010 letter from the Agency Council on Coordinated Transportation.
2. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid and Veterans Administration should allow more flexible cost allocation methodologies.
3. Federal and State agencies should assess their data reporting requirements.
4. The FOW supports legislation that will adequately cover the cost incurred by volunteer drivers.

After some discussion about next steps the FOW recommendations were accepted by the ACCT Council

Legislative Update

Don announced that Margarita Prentice will be named as a member of the ACCT Council.

CTA-NW is finishing a draft legislative document that will identify the affects that any potential funding cuts might have on special needs transportation services. CTANW supports the JTC/FOW model and is working to develop a position paper on the issue.

Geri Beardsley from WSTA said she'd send a tracking sheet around to the members. WSTA is in support of the bill that codifies the Rural Mobility Grant program and includes a slight increase in funding. This short term funding bill that would help Community Transit, King County Metro and Pierce Transit. Yesterday Representative Liias introduced transit support legislation but WSTA hasn't fully evaluated this yet.

Todd talked about the potential consolidation of DSHS and the Health Care Authority. "It has been a very busy session".

Roundtable

Todd: DSHS will present Medicaid purchasing authority as part of its legislative package. The new broker contracts went out yesterday.

Madelyn: CTA-NW will be tracking legislative issues throughout the session. Please visit the CTA-NW website if you're interested in following those issues.

Glenn: The budget is impacting student transportation systems and programs.

Don: WSDOT Public Transportation grant applications came in yesterday, and his team will be working through them. Reviewer solicitation will take place shortly- however, applicants themselves will be ineligible to participate.