

Veterans Transportation Coordination

There are currently 632,210 veterans living in Washington State. For many of these men and women, medical care and rehabilitative services are an important part of their life after active duty. Veterans seek medical care in many places including the Department of Veterans Affairs Hospitals, Mobile Clinics, and State Residential Facilities. These facilities are located throughout Washington State. While the facilities are sited throughout Washington State, travel to medical appointments is a hardship for many because of extended travel times and limited travel options.

Coordinated Human Service Transportation Planning

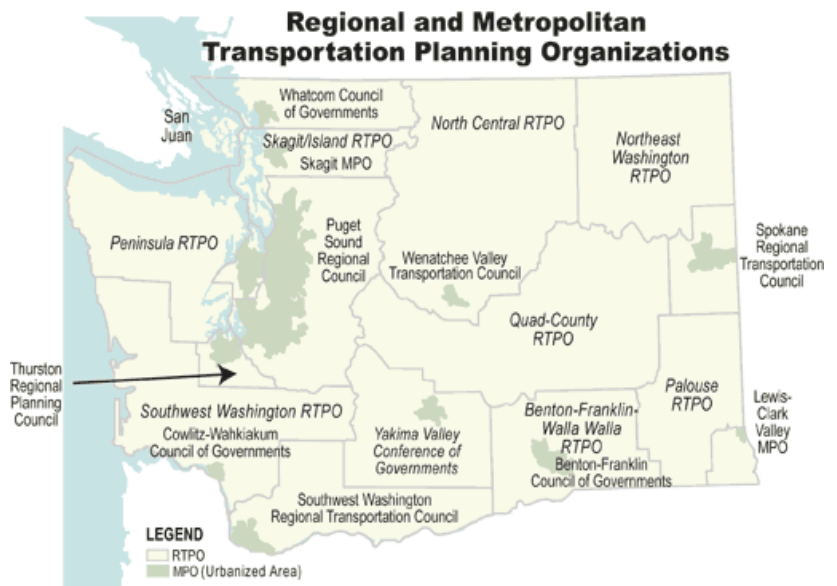
Federal and state law requires the establishment of locally-developed, coordinated Human Service Transportation Plans (HSTP) for all human services transportation programs. The 14 Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPOs) facilitate the development of these plans. During the 2010 plan development, many of the RTPO's coordinated with, recognized and prioritized, the transportation needs of our nations Veterans.

Many of the transportation providers throughout the state indicated transportation for veterans as a significant need in their community:

- Participants in the public outreach events indicated a general lack of information about the resources and options available to veterans traveling to medical appointments. This concern was addressed by attendees at the CTAAs Veterans Forum and echoed by RTPO's including:

- Southwest Washington RTPO
- Peninsula RTPO
- Thurston Regional Planning Council
- Quad-County RTPO

- Transportation providers are proposing share vehicles among programs to serve rural areas and lesson the travel times. (Peninsula RTPO)
- The Snohomish County Senior Center is using a "Travel Ambassador" model to perform outreach and education to veterans in the Snohomish County area. (Puget Sound Regional Council)
- Valley Transit has developed a grant to provide transit service to the new Veterans facility in the Tri- Cities. (Benton-Franklin –Walla Walla RTPO)



- Grant Transit operates a "Health Shuttle" bringing vets to clinics and hospitals between Moses Lake and Quincy. (Quad County RTPO)
- Southwest Washington identified veterans transportation as an issue. Human Services Council, a local transportation broker, developed a veterans outreach strategy. This strategy is intended to link veterans to transportation resources through greater education and awareness . (Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council)