

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. ACCT was created by the legislature in 1998 to facilitate coordination and eliminate cross-jurisdictional and government program barriers to transportation. The ACCT Council will concentrate on three critical areas: Identify and Address Barriers, Focus on Results, and Increase Advocacy.

ACCT meets the first Friday of even numbered months at WSDOT's Headquarters Building in Olympia, unless otherwise announced. The last meeting was held April 2 and remaining meetings for 2004 are scheduled for June 4, August 6, October 1, and December 3.

IDENTIFY AND ADDRESS BARRIERS

Trip Planner Agreement Signed

The Washington and Oregon State Departments of Transportation have signed an interagency agreement to begin the design of the Regional Trip Planner. As part of the design process, WSDOT hired Seija Blaylock to contact transportation providers around Washington to gather necessary information and set up agreements for launching the project.

The Regional Trip Planner will allow transit users to retrieve information on-line about public transportation routes. The transit user will be able to enter a starting point and a destination, and the Trip Planner will produce a list of providers offering local trips, intercity connections, and destination transit information. Transit users will get information about schedules, fares, wheelchairs, and bike accessibility.

Coordination Projects Reach Milestones

Demonstration projects in both Pierce and Mason counties have reached major milestones. Partners in Pierce County's "Common Ground" project have agreed to a cost allocation formula on shared rides. By equitably assigning the costs among various transportation programs, the partners will be able to more effectively group riders on vehicles.

In Mason county, project partners have agreed to increasing public transit role in providing and planning Medicaid trips. This agreement will help the partners learn how to deliver rides more effectively across the county. Watch for the results of these demonstration projects in future editions of *ACCT-ION*.

FOCUS ON RESULTS

Initial Performance Measures Chosen

ACCT held a *Seeing Our Progress, Expanding Our Vision* performance measures summit on March 24 in Bellevue. State agency managers and policy makers, including Rep.

Jarrett (R-41) and Rep. Miloscia (D-30), attended the summit.

The lively discussion focused on indicators of a successful coordinated public transportation system and performance measures for providers, purchasers, and riders. "Cost per trip" was selected as the measure that comes closest to the goals and mission of ACCT. The summit members asked the ACCT and state agency staff to select two counties and collect the appropriate data.

In addition to cost per trip, ACCT plans to measure coordination based on the "United We Ride" self-evaluation tool. ACCT will also map the Jobs Access Reverse Commute (JARC) projects across the state since these projects indicate a measure of coordinated planning and resource sharing.

INCREASE ADVOCACY

United We Ride Puget Sound Forum Set

ACCT has worked with programs in Pierce, King, and Snohomish Counties and the Cascadia Group to host a June 14 leadership forum on Coordinated Special Needs Transportation. Paula Hammond, ACCT chair, will moderate for the group of elected officials and policy makers from stakeholder groups. The forum will focus on:

- Better access to services and employment
- Using school buses as a transportation option
- Reducing duplication in transportation programs
- Increasing access to service information through the Regional Trip Planner

The forum will coincide with the Community Transportation Association of America's (CTAA) annual Expo that is being held in Seattle this year.

For additional information, contact:

ACCT
360-705-7846
www.wsdot.wa.gov/acct