

Agency Council on Coordinated Transportation (ACCT)

Friday, December 1, 2006
9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
WSDOT Commission Board Room
Olympia, WA

Meeting Summary

Attendance

Council Members

Paula Hammond, Chair, WSDOT
Marilyn Mason-Plunkett, CTA-NW
Page Scott, MPO/RTPO Representative
Allan Jones, OSPI
MaryAnne Lindblad for Doug Porter, DSHS
Richard DeRock, WSTA
Margaret Casey, Citizen Representative

WSDOT Staff

Robin Phillips, ACCT Administrator
Don Chartock, WSDOT Staff
Rebeca Potasnik, WSDOT Staff
Cynthia Middleton, WSDOT Staff

Guests

Leslie Kerry, consultant
Cliff Schulman, consultant
Walt Cormey, Self Advocate
Martha Hankins, Senate Staff
Darren Brugmann, CTA- NW
Sonja Griffing
Paul Meury, HRSA
Tom Hanson, WSDOT
Eric Phillips, WSDOT
Gale Bauhs, Human Services Council
Lynn Moody, Hopelink
Emily Rogers, ARC of Washington

Welcome and Introductions

Paula Hammond

Chair Paula Hammond welcomed members and guests to the meeting. Ms. Hammond briefly reviewed the agenda topics and direction for the meeting.

Budget Update

Robin Phillips

ACCT staff member Don Chartock provided the council with an update on applications for technical assistance projects. Selection Committee has completed work and Don will be working with successful projects to draft agreements. Paula would like the Council to develop a strategy for how to share best practices with others as part of this program.

Approve Meeting Summary from October 2006

Paula explained that a laptop was stolen with the October ACCT meeting summary notes on it. The reconstructed version is short but acceptable. A motion was made to accept the summary, the motion was seconded and the Council approved it.

A proposed meeting schedule for 2007 was reviewed along w/ potential topics to address. Paula added a homeless student update to the February meeting agenda. The February meeting will be a good time to review ACCT status and we will have a sense of what legislation conversations are occurring.

Identify and Address Barriers

Homeless Student Project

Don Chartock, Allan Jones

Allan Jones asked about the Puget Sound ESD project. A number of concerns were identified with coordinating Homeless student transportation through brokers during the project year. Lynn Moody of Hopelink, the Seattle Brokerage joined table. Hopelink tried to use their Medicaid rates

for homeless student providers, but student transportation has different standards which impacted their ability to provide trips. Providers lost money because there was up to a 60% no-show rate, and providers weren't paid for no-show trips or were paid minimally.

This year, general rate adjustments were made. The revisions helped to address the problem of lost revenue and worked to strengthen brokerage relationships all around. Don Chartock said the new version of the ACCT report includes the positive next steps taken to improve the homeless student transportation service. Paula asked ACCT staff to review the UW report and add this discussion to the February ACCT meeting.

Travel Options Project

Robin Phillips

Infrastructure is installed, the system is being tested and a working prototype of the Travel Options Project will be up and running by Christmas. Between now and the next meeting, ACCT members will be asked for their feedback to make the system work well. A prototype will be on the web and we will provide a web link on the site. The site will also have a feedback mechanism for offering suggestions for improvement. We expect to go live to the public in February 2007, focusing on connecting intercity providers. Robin will figure out some type of virtual ribbon cutting to celebrate the Travel Options Project.

Other discussion on April and June agenda items

Richard DeRock suggested a topic for future discussion is Developmental Disabilities (DD) transportation. Richard said that a state policy change dealing with developmental disabilities in transportation has changed transportation requirements, closing group homes, group employment sites, etc. This has changed the number of rides people need and places they are going for community-based jobs. It could also cause shutdowns in other services, such as weekend service, in order to provide more paratransit services.

Paula asked MaryAnn if ACCT could get a briefing or presentation on this. Robin will develop an agenda with MaryAnn and DSHS, and will meet with Richard DeRock and a Developmental Disabilities staff person prior to presenting information at a future ACCT meeting.

Employment and transportation is a broad issue and needs coordination. Paula said that WSDOT recommends that an Employment Security representative be on the ACCT Council.

Focus on Results

Draft ACCT Report to Legislature

Don Chartock

ACCT staff member Don Chartock said the report is complete regarding content and has been sent to graphics to publish. Don outlined suggestions he has incorporated from comments he received about the report. This year, the report contains a great deal of performance measures information.

Margaret Casey suggested the ACCT Council stress their accomplishments within the Executive Summary portion of the report. Robin will create a summary of the ACCT report card and what's left to do, to use when Council members meet with legislators in February. Richard DeRock said there is an important distinction that coordination does not cut the cost per trip; it may reduce other costs, but needs to be broken down to be clearer. As we move forward, effectiveness, not efficiency, is the most important measurement. Richard also said that there are problems with the language in the UTC regulatory changes for intercity bus legislation. Paula said we will put this on a future agenda for discussion.

Performance Measures

Rebeca Potasnik

Rebeca Potasnik, ACCT staff, created the performance measures and the appendices in the ACCT report. The performance measures portion will also appear in the WA State Summary of Community and Brokered Transportation 2005 report. This report will be available online and in limited printed quantities.

The council discussed how we should portray costs. Robin Phillips will have a footnote added to the report to clarify which costs are included in the performance report. Robin suggested this be a discussion item for more conversation at a future ACCT meeting.

Increase Advocacy

ACCT Reauthorization

Roundtable

There was a roundtable discussion regarding ACCT reauthorization legislation. Paula introduced Steve Reinmuth, the WSDOT Governmental Relations Director to describe his efforts in developing drafts of the legislation and working with the Governor's office on department request legislation.

There are actually three versions of the legislative request. Version 1 extended the 10 year time frame for ACCT and will advance, but the other versions will not. It is the "plain vanilla" version. The goal of the legislation is to require a process to exchange information. A fiscal note was created for this version.

The Governor's office has said that they cannot advance the second version at this point. All agency request legislation was due on September 29th. We submitted the first version on that date. ACCT should talk about how the advocacy for Z-Draft 1 occurs in future. Paula said that WSDOT and DSHS could do a draft a fiscal note for Version 3 so we would have the information when asked.

Cocker-Fennessy Report

ACCT staff worked with Cocker-Fennessy, a public relations and outreach firm, to do a qualitative evaluation of ACCT. The Council reviewed the report and the themes identified through the outreach process. They found that ACCT needed to be more visible, get people more engaged, and stressed that it is not just one agency/organization working toward the mission. ACCT is under funded and understaffed – the actual FTE for ACCT is .8; WSDOT supplies the rest. We need to develop a better way to tell the story of what ACCT does. To be more effective ACCT needs more customer focus and input.

Margaret Casey suggested ACCT define what "Special Needs" means, and use words that explain whether we are speaking about children, youth, seniors, etc.

Allan Jones had a concern about the Z-draft language requiring the reporting of data requested from agencies. There is a cost associated with providing that data. Paula said ACCT would have to be careful about what to ask for and keep track of what is spent. The Council will work with agencies to develop ways to share information and data.

A suggestion was made to insert permissive wording to allow phased-in reporting. The legislation also needs to describe the process to get a data collection process in place and account for total annual expenditures. Steve Reinmuth said he needs very clear language, yet not too specific. Paula said staff will put it out to the Council for another round of input. Richard DeRock will help Robin with language revisions. Allan Jones pointed out that there is no one on the council who represents school districts.

Audience Comment

Paula asked for input from audience members about the proposed ACCT reauthorization. Emily Rogers stated that she has been involved in DD issues for many years. Her group agrees that ACCT should be reauthorized. They will be meeting with Rep. Deb Wallace about what the next steps would be in this process. Emily offered to provide support if needed.

Darren Brugmann, President of CTA- NW, joined the council at the table. He is interested in working with ACCT to provide a forum to facilitate healthy dialogue about special needs transportation.

Paula asked if there were others in audience who wished to comment.

Karen Parkhurst, TCRPC, said they adopted ACCT reauthorization as a regional priority policy and funding that goes along with these programs. As mandates are added, they will seek funds. They also support improved reporting from state agencies. MPOs support putting more teeth in this for ACCT and will talk to legislators about it. The lack of good data collection infrastructure is a barrier to collecting the data we need.

Robin updated the council on the work her staff has done that was requested by the Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse, DSHS. Robin handed out map showing access to transit, by county, by people in drug treatment. Shows number of patients and percent served. Data was not consistently entered and differences exist in how to define transit access. A draft report will go out next week.

Next Meeting –

Where: Washington State Department of Transportation
Commission Board Room
310 Maple Park Avenue SE
Olympia, WA 98504

When: Friday, February 2, 2007

Time: 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.