

To the Administrator of the FTA:

RE: Docket FTA-2006-24037-1

Regarding the proposed guidance for “Elderly and Individuals with Disabilities Job Access and Reverse Commute New Freedom Programs and Coordinated Public Transit Human Service Transportation Plans; Proposed Implementation Strategies” the Agency Council for Coordinated Transportation, representing a consortium of state agencies including Washington State Department of Transportation, Department of Social and Health Services, Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the state transit and special needs transportation associations, and Metropolitan and Regional Planning Organizations statewide would like to submit the following comments:

- We support the approach in your proposed guidance to defining coordinated human service and transportation planning as required by SAFETEA-LU. We appreciate that discretion is left to the states to define an effective process while leaving coordination and prioritization to local communities.
- We support using Washington’s Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPOs) in addition to the MPOs and affiliated organizations to integrate public transportation and human service transportation needs in to existing planning processes. In Washington these existing organizations are recognized forums for coordinating regional transportation needs.
- We support those sections of the guidance that provide flexibility for coordinated transportation planning and human service participation. We do not support increased specificity of the coordinated planning requirements.
- We agree that in large MPO areas competitive selection of grantees for JARC and New Freedom should not be managed by a transportation provider.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions please contact Robin Phillips, Administrator of Coordinated Transportation at 360.705.7929. For more information on Washington State’s implementation of the coordinated planning requirements please see: www.wsdot.wa.gov/acct