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October 25, 2013

The Honorable Judy Clibborn
Chair, House Transportation Committee
415 John L. O'Brien Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

The Honorable Ed Orcutt
House Transportation Committee
408 John L. O'Brien Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Dear Representative Clibborn and Representative Orcutt:

The Agency Council on Coordinated Transportation (ACCT) is writing in support of special needs transportation. ACCT is made up of state agencies, transportation providers, riders and legislators with the vision of greater ability for people with special needs to participate in society and have access to goods and services associated with the activities of daily living.

ACCT appreciates the support that the House Transportation Committee has provided for special needs transportation over the years. Your leadership, and ability to recognize the importance of transportation for people with special transportation needs, is vital to creating fair and equitable transportation for the future.

The Council has been working on special needs transportation on an ongoing basis. We would like to put forward some principles that we believe both provide reform and increase access for those who need it the most:

- **Support Coordinated Transportation** – There is a continued need to look at ways to share costs and riders between providers. Too often, programs operate in silos, missing opportunities to both increase access and operate more efficiently, sharing the common goal.
- **Mobility Management** – Information is often cited as a barrier to transportation. Mobility management projects, like travel training, increase independence for riders and more than pay for themselves with the savings to demand response systems.
- **Cross Jurisdictional Travel** – During ACCT's outreach sessions, the need to travel through jurisdictions in a more convenient manner was one of the top needs expressed by riders with disabilities.
- **Integrate Veterans Transportation** – Washington State has a very large population of veterans with growing needs to access medical services. There is a need to partner with the veterans organizations to identify travel needs and develop transportation options that will serve our veterans population.

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As a council we recognize the importance of coordinating transportation services to maximize efficiencies and avoid duplication. Over the past biennium we have focused our work on projects that support greater access to life supportive transportation services and maximize taxpayer dollars.

Thank you for taking the time to consider all of the transportation needs in Washington. If you would like ACCT to focus on any particular issue related to special needs transportation, please let us know.

Sincerely,



J. Page Scott
Chair, ACCT Council