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October 25, 2013

The Honorable Curtis King
Senate Transportation Committee
305 John A. Cherberg Building
PO Box 40414
Olympia, WA 98504-0414

The Honorable Tracy Eide
Senate Transportation Committee
235 John A. Cherberg Building
PO Box 40430
Olympia, WA 98504-0430

Dear Senator King and Senator Eide:

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 Senate Transportation Committee for organizing the Community Listening Sessions. These connections with the community gave members an opportunity to hear from citizens about transportation challenges they face, ways they value the system and ideas for reform.

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:

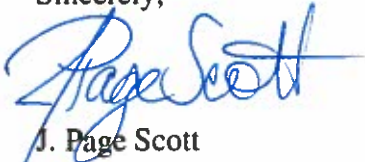
- **Support Coordinated Transportation** – There is a continued need to look at ways to share costs and riders between providers. Too often, programs operate in silos, missing opportunities to both increase access and operate more efficiently, sharing the common goal.
- **Mobility Management** – Information 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