

Meeting Notes
Agency Council on Coordinated Transportation
Washington State Department of Transportation
Friday December 11, 2009
11:30 AM – 2:00 PM
Olympia, WA

In Attendance:

Lynn Moody (for Marilyn Mason Plunkett); Michael Howell; Rep. Wallace (by phone); Katy Taylor; Don Chartock; Tim Renfro (for Lynne Griffith); Allan Jones; Michele Drorbaugh; Barbara Sainitzer; Doug Porter; Michael Rogers

Council Business

Welcome and Introductions

Katy Taylor, Chair

Katy called the meeting to order and provided a safety briefing. She welcomed everyone and led introductions.

Legislature 2010

Rep. Wallace

The 2010 session is a 60-day budget session. Todd from DSHS noted that the Governor's budget has identified many programs as "suspended," including First Steps Maternity Support and Interpreter Services. Many of these programs' cuts will effect special needs transportation. Lynn indicated that brokers also coordinate Interpreter Services.

Tim and Katy said WSTA is planning to use this year as an information sharing year to be better prepared for next year's session.

For OSPI, Allan said the Basic Education Reform bill tasked a quality education council to come up with a proposal to implement the new student transportation funding system. They adopted the position that would move the implementation of that funding system to 2011 and in a three-year step process transition to full funding for student transportation. That would have a huge impact on homeless and special education students; In order for that all to happen there needs to be funding in this budget to developing the computer system. We have house and majority support so we are hopeful that it will pass.

For CTA-NW, Karen Parkhurst indicated the siting of state facilities would bring together both special needs transportation and congestion programs.

Barbara said the Awareness Advocacy and Accessibility Committee of the Governors Committee on Disability and Employment (GCDE) is working on the issue of accessible taxi service. The committee is also working to address the issues of accessibility

regarding roundabouts that are often not constructed with people with disabilities in mind. Rep. Wallace said, “roundabouts can be very effective to move vehicles around and are efficient, but not for folks with disabilities; we need to look at how we can improve them not eliminate them.” There are possibilities of working with the UW Planning Program, designers at WSDOT, or the WSDOT library services.

Membership Update

Ryan Warner

ACCT currently has 2 of 14 voting member positions vacant. We have a vacant spot for Governor’s Office, formally held by Jennifer Ziegler. The Association of Counties position also remains vacant. Additionally we are looking for a Democratic Senator to act as one of the two, non-voting, legislative representatives from the Senate. Madelyn Carlson has been nominated by the CTA-NW.

Approve October Meeting Notes

Katy Taylor, Chair

Approve October Meeting Notes – Don asked members to review meeting notes and indicated that there is an amendment (goldenrod) in your binders that indicates the update to Local Coordinated Coalitions section. Michael Rogers motioned to accept minutes along with amendment for approval; Tim seconded; discussion; approved.

Budget and Work Plan

Don Chartock

FTA cleared some of the United We Ride funding for grants use. Don said that last session we identified some projects but didn’t follow through because of the consultant freeze that was put into place. The focus of this biennium is on what we were assigned as part of HB2072. Any other projects are going to be deferred.

Work Plan Elements

Local Coordinating Coalition

Marge Tully

Marge Tully provided the six-month report of the work of the Pierce County Coordinated Transportation Coalition (PCCTC) as required by ESHB 2072.

The PCCTC has worked on coordinating special needs transportation for ten years now. Through a project called Common Ground, PCCTC examined the special needs transportation provided to Multicare Adult Day Health (ADH) in Tacoma. Pierce Transit provided about half and Medicaid brokers provided about half of the trips. For many years efforts were made to find ways to combine trips for the people who were eligible to use both providers. The project was discontinued in 2008 due to problems with using a cost allocation formula for sharing trip costs, unresolved questions regarding federal rules about “usual and customary fees” for transit ADA rides, and Medicaid as the “payer of last resort.” These issues have been referred to the ACCT Federal Work Group.

In July 2009 DSHS shifted to a waived Medicaid program for ADH services and people going to Adult Day Health were no longer eligible to receive the Medicaid Non Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) benefit. The majority of the rides (and costs) were shifted to Pierce Transit.

The PCCTC is developing a pilot project called The Adult Health Day Express. It will combine funding from WSDOT, Washington Department of Social and Health Services, Pierce Transit, Sound Transit, Multicare Adult Day Health, and Pierce County Community Services to provide transportation services for people from Pierce and Thurston Counties attending Multicare ADH. Multicare will contract with a private transportation provider and use Medicaid funds of \$15 per day per person, as well as other pooled money, to pay for transportation. The Medicaid funds are not a fully allocated share of the cost, but for the first time in Pierce County, Medicaid funds and public transit funds will be combined to provide coordinated transportation. The LCC will evaluate the project based on the benchmarks of cost effectiveness, fewer vehicles on the road, more occupants per vehicle, and customer satisfaction.

Michael H. – Please don't forget the consumers in this process.

Emergency Management
Howard Hanson Dam

Ryan Warner &
Katy Taylor

The potential for emergency conditions was 1:3; now we are at 1:33, which is good but the work continues by King County and the local counties. This has been a very good exercise in planning and an opportunity to prepare for an unplanned event.

Federal Opportunities Workgroup

Don Chartock

We have an RFP out to hire a consultant. We will have more to share with you at the next meeting and that information will be communicated in iambic pentameter.

Member and Audience Comments:

Page – federal service authorization is pending. Ray LaHood is holding listening sessions and Page would like to see one be offered to the rural audience. She will draft a letter for Don to distribute to the Council. Once approved, Katy will sign on behalf of ACCT.

Kristy Sheffer – reminded folks about the University of Florida study for disadvantage programs. This study looked at transportation for nutrition programs, life sustaining programs, appointments and social activities. They found that every \$1 invested in transportation reaped significant savings, especially in medical costs. The University of Florida Study can be found at http://tmi.cob.fsu.edu/roi_final_report_0308.pdf

Adjourn at 1:45.