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Human Service Transportation Coordination State Profile: TEXAS

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In a state with vast geography, a growing population and differing needs of rural and urban areas, coordinating transportation services in Texas has proven to be a challenge. This new NCSL [report](#) details coordination activities among the dozens of transit systems and hundreds of private and non-profit transportation providers in Texas. Visit the [overview page](#) for more profiles—on Florida, Iowa, Kentucky, Washington and Wisconsin—and other resources on human service transportation coordination.

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State Activity

Busy First Quarter

With legislative sessions in full swing, the first quarter of 2012 saw a lively mix of state legislation related to human service transportation coordination.

- A **Florida** [measure](#) was sent to the governor for approval on April 6 that would allocate \$10 million to the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund in FY 2013 and each year thereafter. The funds would subsidize transportation costs for those who, due to physical or mental disability, income status or age, cannot transport themselves and are dependent upon others to access life-sustaining activities.
- The **Idaho** Senate approved [legislation](#) on Feb. 21 to create the Idaho Mobility Council. The council would advise the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) on issues, coordination strategies, policies, procedures and funding relating to mobility planning and implementation and provide leadership for planning and coordination, among other duties.
- A [measure](#) became law on March 20 in **Indiana** that requires the state Department of Health, the Division of Fire and Building Safety, and the Indiana Emergency Medical Services Commission to report to the Health Finance Commission on various services, including procedures and policies for health facilities to obtain emergency and non-emergency medical transportation services.
- A [bill](#) signed into law on March 30 in **Maine** directs the state Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to review reimbursement for transportation for MaineCare members to and from services, including but not limited to freestanding methadone treatment clinics. Among other tasks, DHHS is required to review options for limiting allowable reimbursement and for coordinating transportation services to decrease costs.

- In **New York**, a pending [bill](#) would refer responsibilities of the Interagency Coordinating Committee on Rural Public Transportation to the New York State Department of Transportation. The DOT would consult with various state agencies and other human service and transportation stakeholders, and recommend policies to promote coordination, efficiency and transportation access.
- An [act](#) signed by **Vermont's** governor on April 4 directs the Commissioner of Mental Health to implement a clinical resource management system which includes coordinated transportation services.
- A pending [measure](#) in **Washington** would change the composition and duties of the Agency Council on Coordinated Transportation (ACCT). The bill would expand council membership; extend the council beyond June 30, 2012; limit the support provided to the ACCT; and place the council's focus on projects involving coordinated human services transportation plans, mobility management and underserved populations, among others.

More details are available in NCSL's online [database](#).

Alaska's Task Force Releases Coordination Report

In January, the Alaska Governor's Coordinated Transportation Task Force (CTTF) released a draft final [report](#). Created by executive order, the CTTF serves as the advisory committee to the Governor concerning community-based transportation services and coordination. The report contains a statewide vision for human service public transportation and an action plan with outcome-based strategies. Recommendations include legislatively creating a state Coordinated Transportation Commission with the authority and responsibility to make needed systemic changes.

NCSL Offers No-Cost, In-State Technical Assistance

Under a cooperative agreement with the Federal Transit Administration and the U.S. Department of Labor, NCSL can offer no-cost technical assistance or testimony to state legislative audiences on human service transportation coordination issues. In addition, NCSL regularly offers expert, nonpartisan presentations to diverse audiences on a full range of transportation topics. Please [contact us](#) about how NCSL could be useful to coordination efforts in your state or region.

Surface Transportation Extension Passes House

On April 18, the U.S. House of Representatives approved the [Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2012, Part II \(H.R. 4348\)](#), which extends surface transportation authorization and current funding levels for transit and highway programs through Sept. 30, 2012. Although the administration has issued a [veto threat](#) against the bill, the House vote now allows formal conference negotiations with the Senate over more long-term legislation—and how to save the Highway Trust Fund from insolvency. While it is uncertain what elements of existing Senate and House proposals will make it into a long-term bill, both sides have expressed support for continued, dedicated transit funding.

More Spending Flexibility for Transit Agencies

Transit agencies nationwide have been granted a one-time opportunity to cover fuel costs with a portion of Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funds normally allocated for capital expenses. FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff commented that the “flexibility brings short-term relief to the nation’s cash-strapped transit agencies and keep buses and trains running for the riders who depend on them.” Included in President Obama’s proposed FY2013 budget is an additional chance for urban area transit agencies to use federal capital funds for operating expenses such as fuel. The budget would allow for assistance over a three-year period if the economy were to decline. Read more in the [April 12 Federal Register](#) and this [news release](#) from FTA.

\$40 Million Available for Local and Tribal Transit Options

The U.S. Department of Transportation has announced new grant funds for communities and tribal governments to plan and strengthen public transit. On March 9, U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood [announced](#) \$15 million to be awarded through the Tribal Transit Program, to improve transit access to jobs, education, medical services and other needs in underserved rural areas. Proposals are due by May 10, 2012. On March 12, LaHood [announced](#) a further \$25 million through the Alternative Analysis competitive grant program to help communities plan future transit options, with proposals due by April 19. Read more in the [March 9](#) and [March 12](#) Federal Registers.

Veterans Transportation Report and Info Session Coming Soon!

NCSL is in the midst of a survey of all the states and territories on state coordination and other activities that facilitate access to transportation mobility for veterans. Planned for release in Aug. 2012, the report will feature a state-by-state comparison, three case studies and a synthesis of best practices from across the nation.

We have neared our halfway point for survey responses and want to hear from YOU about how veterans are being included in transportation efforts in your state or region. Contact [Jaime Rall](#) for more information.

NCSL also will host an informational session on veterans transportation at [NCSL's Legislative Summit](#) in Chicago, Ill., Aug. 6 – 9, 2012, featuring key findings from our 50-state research. Stay tuned to the Summit [website](#) for updates on this and other sessions on the most critical policy issues facing the states.

NCSL Offers Up-to-Date Transportation Resources

NCSL makes many of its resources available to the general public. These include searchable, online databases of state legislation and regular newsletters.

- A new NCSL report, [Regional Human Service Transportation Coordinating Councils: Synthesis, Case Studies and Directory](#), offers an overview of the regional coordinating council approach, including factors that can support their success; case studies of regional councils in California, Colorado, Florida, Idaho and Iowa; and a comprehensive directory of regional councils nationwide.
- The [NCSL State Transportation Coordination Legislation Database](#) tracks pending bills, executive orders and statutes on various transportation coordination topics, dating back to 2000.
- The [NCSL Transportation Funding Legislation Database](#) provides information about 17 different transportation funding issues under consideration in the states, including transit funding.
- The [Transport Report](#), a monthly newsletter from NCSL's Transportation Committee and Programs, focuses on state and federal transportation news, trends and analysis. For more details or to join the distribution list, please contact [Jaime Rall](#).

Calendar

- [Professional Development and Trainings on Mobility Management and Community Transportation Topics](#) – Hosted by the Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA) – locations vary – trainings scheduled April to Sept., 2012.
- [National Rural Transportation Conference](#) – Hosted by the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) – Burlington, Vt. – April 25 to 27, 2012.
- [Webinar: Urban Area Boundaries and Planning](#) – Featuring FHWA, FTA and Census Bureau staff – April 27, 2012, 1 to 3 p.m. Eastern time.
- [2012 Transportation Lunch: The Role of Smart Growth in Transportation Planning](#) – Hosted by the Washington Policy Center – Bellevue, Wash. – May 3, 2012.
- [National Association of Workforce Development Professionals Annual Conference](#) – Las Vegas, Nev. – May 7 to 9, 2012.
- [2012 Bus and Paratransit Conference](#) – Hosted by the American Public Transit Association (APTA) – Long Beach, Calif. – May 6 to 9, 2012.
- [2012 Mobility Management Conference](#) – Hosted by the American Public Transit Association (APTA) – Long Beach, Calif. – May 9 and 10, 2012.
- [Community Transportation Association of America \(CTAA\) Expo](#) – Baltimore, Md. – May 20 to 25, 2012.
- [National Association of Regional Councils \(NARC\) 46th Annual Conference and Exhibition](#) – St. Petersburg, Fla. – June 10 to 14, 2012.
- [NCSL Legislative Summit](#) – Chicago, Ill. – Aug. 6 to 9, 2012. **Early bird registration ends May 23!**



New Resources



Keeping Baby Boomers Mobile: Preserving the Mobility and Safety of Older Americans

This [report](#) by TRIP and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) explores mobility and safety issues for older Americans and makes recommendations for implementing a transportation system that can better serve their needs as well as the population at large.



Transportation and the New Generation: Why Young People Are Driving Less and What It Means for Transportation Policy

A new [report](#) produced by the U.S. PIRG Education Fund and the Frontier Group demonstrates that Americans have been driving less since the middle of last decade. Young people in particular are decreasing the amount they drive and increasing their use of transportation alternatives.

Promising Practices: What You Need to Know About Veterans Transportation [Webinar]



In March, the National Resource Center for Human Service Transportation Coordination (NRC) hosted a webinar on the Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative (VTCLI) and other veterans' transportation activities. The archived [recording](#) is available online.

Connecting Centers for Independent Living (CIL) and Mobility Managers for Accessible Transportation [Webinar]



In Feb., Easter Seals Project ACTION hosted a [webinar](#) on the Mobility Management Independent Living (MMIL) demonstration program—which was created to strengthen the link between mobility management and the disability community—including how to replicate the program across the country.

Understanding Transit Ridership Demand for a Multi-Destination, Multimodal Transit Network in an American Metropolitan Area



This [study](#) by the Mineta Transportation Institute offers new insights into the nature of transit demand in the multi-destination, integrated bus and rail transit network in Atlanta, Ga. The authors show that bus and rail riders differ, but both value many of the same attributes of transit service quality.

2010 Census Urban and Rural Classification and Urban Area Criteria



The Census Bureau has [released](#) updated urban-rural classifications. These categories identify geographical areas across the nation as urban or rural based on population density, and are used to allocate formula-based FTA grants. The new list of urban areas can be downloaded [here](#).

Coordination's Role in Solving the Dialysis Transportation Challenge



The growing numbers of dialysis patients with complex mobility challenges require new approaches to patient transportation. This National Resource Center for Human Service Transportation Coordination (NRC) [report](#) connects this issue to other coordinated transportation initiatives and challenges.