



NATIONAL CONFERENCE of STATE LEGISLATURES

The Forum for America's Ideas

Transportation Coordination Newsletter

Vol. 1, No. 2

Q2 2010

NCSL State Coordinating Council Issue Brief

Nicholas J. Farber, JD
Policy Associate, Transportation

The National Conference of State Legislatures Transportation Program recently published an issue brief on [state human service transportation coordinating councils](#). Better coordination is key to enhance services to those in need and as a way to use public resources more efficiently, particularly in times of tight budgets. This report provides a synopsis of how state coordinating councils operate, includes a 50-state reference table, and profiles the 26 existing state coordinating councils.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1** STATE ACTIVITY
- 2** COORDINATION DISCUSSION BOARD
- 2** FTA GRANTS FOR UPDATING BUSES
- 2** THE STATE OF NONEMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION
- 3** NEW RESOURCES



NCSL

7700 East First Place
Denver, Colorado 80230
(303) 364-7700
www.ncsl.org

Nicholas J. Farber, JD, nicholas.farber@ncsl.org
James B. Reed, jim.reed@ncsl.org

State Activity

The second quarter of 2010 saw fewer coordination-related activities at state legislatures. Nevertheless, two new state coordinating councils were created in Georgia and Minnesota bringing to 26 the total number of states with coordinating councils.

- [Georgia Governor Perdue](#) signed legislation to create the Coordinating Council for Rural and Human Services Transportation. The council will encourage efficient transportation service delivery in the rural areas of the state and coordinate human service transportation services in both rural and urban areas.
- Minnesota Governor Pawlenty signed legislation to create the [Minnesota Council on Transportation Access](#). The council is established to study, evaluate, oversee and make recommendations to improve the coordination, availability, accessibility, efficiency, cost-effectiveness and safety of transportation services.
- The Minnesota Department of Transportation launched its "[Hear Every Voice](#)" initiative to support employee learning and implementation of effective public participation. The department recognizes that skill development, access to best practices, tools and other resources must be available. Stakeholder consultation and public involvement play an integral role in the DOT's decision-making processes at every step from planning to project maintenance and operations.
- [California Governor Schwarzenegger](#) signed legislation that provides \$400 million of one-time relief to public transit operators across California to weather the recession and partially offset the state's repeated diversion of transit funds. The two [bills](#) offer relief for transit agencies but settle only a

small part of the state's continuing deliberations to close a \$20 billion budget gap.

- The [Colorado Department of Transportation](#) recently created a transit and rail division. The new division is authorized to promote, plan, design, finance, operate, maintain and contract transit services, such as for passenger rail, buses and advanced guideway systems, CDOT officials said in a prepared statement.

Coordination Discussion Board

Let your voice be heard!

NCSL's [Transportation Coordination Policy Discussion Board](#) is up and running. A question or statement pertinent to human service transportation coordination will be posted every other week. We invite you to answer this question from your perspective, engage others in debate, or do both. Your participation is important because your answers will guide future policy research and future discussions on the board. The questions will come either from NCSL or from those involved with coordination issues at the national, state or local level. We hope that the Transportation Coordination Policy Discussion Board will serve as both a resource and a sounding board for new, innovative ideas. It also can be a resource for the human service transportation coordination community to address issues they face. If you have questions, comments or bi-weekly topic ideas, contact [Nick Farber](#) or [Jim Reed](#).

State Coordination Profiles

In the third quarter of 2010, NCSL will release four new issue briefs on state human service transportation coordinating efforts. The briefs will examine Kentucky's, Washington's, Florida's and Wisconsin's state human service coordination legislative structure. The briefs will examine each state's transportation disadvantaged population (now and in the future), the history of the states' program, what type of authority the state has to conduct coordination efforts, how it funds coordination and what results the state has seen.

New FTA Grants for Upgrading Buses

The Obama administration plans to award [\\$775 million in bus transit grants](#) this summer, Federal Transit Administration (FTA) chief Peter Rogoff announced May 2 during a transit industry conference in Ohio. The bus grants are aimed at shoring up aging equipment and helping cash-strapped localities modernize their systems. Bids are due by June 18, 2010.

The State of Non-Emergency Transportation

[Dale Marsico, executive director of the Community Transportation Association of America \(CTAA\), asserts that we must reexamine how states coordinate their human service transportation services.](#) In many areas, the subject of coordination has become an extremely limited discussion. It focuses on the relationship of Medicaid-purchased transportation and coordination with other community-based transportation services or traditional public transit funded in part by various revenue from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Although there has been greater emphasis the last three years on developing coordination strategies around the FTA-administered JARC, New Freedom and 5310 activities, Medicaid remains the central focus of this discussion in almost every state and locale.

Calendar

[NCSL Legislative Summit – Louisville, Ky. – July 25 - 28](#)

[APTA State Public Transit Partnership Conference – Seattle, Wash. – August 4 - 5, 2010](#)

[APTA Annual Meeting – San Antonio, Texas – October 3 – 6, 2010](#)

NCSL Fall Forum – Phoenix, Ariz. – Dec 8 – 11, 2010.

New Resources

- In April, the AARP Public Policy Institute released a new report, [Policy Options to Improve Specialized Transportation](#). The congressional authorization of the surface transportation law, coupled with the growing demand for specialized transportation, presents an opportunity to improve these services for people with mobility limitations. The report describes specialized transportation, highlights promising practices, and offers policy options for improving these services. Specialized transportation is vital to help people with mobility limitations live as independently as possible. The report recommends that policymakers take steps to strengthen coordinated planning, increase support for mobility management, and improve data collection and reporting on these services.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released a [report](#) on their transportation recommendations that includes local funding flexibility. The U.S. transportation system has been shaped by many policies and concrete actions that have come from transportation and community planners, funding agencies and others at federal, state and local levels. Today, the system is designed to move people and goods efficiently; however, there is a growing awareness across communities that transportation systems affect quality of life and health. Government and non-government agencies are seeking innovative policies and programs that not only protect and promote health but also accomplish primary transportation objectives.
- Congressman Earl Blumenauer (Ore.), chair of the Livable Communities Task Force, recently introduced [legislation](#) that will help communities improve active forms of transportation such as walking and biking. Through the Active Community Transportation (ACT) Act of 2010, communities can access funding for transportation options that improve community vitality, reduce global warming pollution, boost public health, and create jobs.

