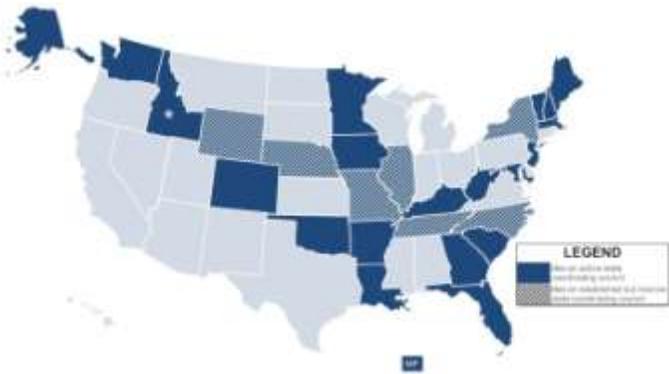




### UPDATE: NCSL RESEARCH ON COORDINATING COUNCILS

NCSL is wrapping up a 50-state study of [state-level "human service transportation coordinating councils."](#) These councils—where state agencies and other groups can work together to get the most out of their diverse transportation services, benefits and programs for special needs populations—are a key strategy to help folks get where they're going.



Today, NCSL knows of 20 states and one territory that have state coordinating councils. See something wrong here? [Let us know!](#)

Twenty states and the Northern Mariana Islands now have state level councils in place. Look for our published report soon to read more about state level coordination!

### 2014 LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

States legislative activity waned in the third quarter of 2014 as [most of the states wrapped up their regular sessions.](#) Here are some [bills](#) that states

enacted these past three months related to transportation access for people with mobility challenges because of age, income or disability.

**ILLINOIS. House Bill 3819** Amends the Act on the Aging by authorizing the Department on Aging to make determinations for benefits and the manner by which claimants shall apply for benefits, such as reduced fees paid by qualified vehicle owners; free fixed route public transportation services for qualified older adults; and transit services for qualified individuals with disabilities.

**ILLINOIS.** Lawmakers extended the grace period for driver's license renewal for volunteer drivers and drivers from religious organizations who provide transportation for older adults in connection with ridesharing arrangements in [House Bill 3685.](#)

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## State Legislative Activity (cont. from page 1)

**MISSOURI.** As part of a larger appropriation bill, [House Bill 2014](#) funds the Medicaid HealthNet Division to fund all other noninstitutional services including nonemergency medical transportation.



**RHODE ISLAND.** The [Aging in Community Act of 2014](#) directs the chair of the Long-Term Care Coordinating Council to create an Aging in Community Subcommittee to develop a plan to provide the needed infrastructure and program improvements in support services, housing and transportation that will enable the state's growing elder population to safely remain living at home and in the community.

## NATIONAL NEWS

### Short-Term Insolvency Averted for Highway Trust Fund; Long-Term Issues Remain

Federal surface transportation programs were continued when the president signed into law the [Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2014](#) (H.R. 5021) on Aug. 8, 2014, which extends both authorization and funding through May 31, 2015. The bill [provides nearly \\$11 billion](#), fully offset, to the Highway Trust Fund. Congress approved the legislation late on July 31, 2014, just hours before

the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) was set to begin instituting cash management strategies to ensure the solvency of the Highway Trust Fund. Such strategies would have included reducing reimbursements to states. Congressional action on a long-term reauthorization of the existing surface transportation bill, [Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act](#) (MAP-21) is still pending.

### What's Next for Reauthorization?

With the current federal surface transportation law—the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act, or MAP-21—now extended through May 31, 2015, Congress is beginning to look at longer-term reauthorization options.

As noted [in an open letter](#) from Secretary Foxx and 11 former U.S. DOT secretaries, even with a short-term fix enacted, Congress' work doesn't end. Lawmakers will still need to find sustainable, long-term funding plan for federal surface transportation programs.

On Oct. 9, Senator Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.), [sent a letter](#) to House Ways and Means Chairman Dave Camp (R-Mich.) and Rep. Sander Levin (D-Mich.) urging Congress to tackle long-term financing problems in the lame-duck session. Discussions about long-term options are expected to come after the November election.

### More "Ladders of Opportunity" Grants

As part of the FTA's Ladders of Opportunity initiative, the National Center on Senior Transportation (NCST) is inviting applications for a

new grant program, [Connecting Seniors to Public Transportation](#). This competitive grant program will provide funding to five communities to develop and test interventions designed to encourage and facilitate increased access and usage of public transportation and mobility options by older adults to support successful aging. Proposals are due Nov. 7, 2014. A [teleconference for interested applicants](#) will be held on Thursday, Oct. 16, 2014, at 3 p.m. ET.

## National News (cont. from page 2)

### "Ladders of Opportunity" Grants Awarded

The U.S. DOT has [awarded approximately \\$100 million](#) to 24 recipients in 19 states to improve bus service and facilities in urban and rural communities where residents depend on public transportation. The grant funds are through the Federal Transit Administration's new [Ladders of Opportunity Initiative](#).

"Transportation is about more than getting from one point to another—it's about getting from where you are to a better life," said Secretary Foxx. "The Ladders of Opportunity grants will help communities to offer better access to jobs and schools and allow citizens to gain the life skills they need to achieve their goals."

FTA received 446 proposals requesting approximately \$1.4 billion in funding, 14 times the available amount. The Ladders of Opportunity funds will be used to modernize and expand transit bus service specifically to connect low-income people, veterans, older adults and others with employment and workforce training opportunities in urban,

suburban and rural communities.

## Disaster Relief Funds for More Resilient Transit

Forty projects in the areas affected by Hurricane Sandy were selected by DOT Secretary Foxx to receive a share of \$3.59 billion in federal disaster relief funds to help public transportation systems. Most of the funds are for transit systems in New York and New Jersey, with the remainder going towards projects in Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Pennsylvania. Approximately 90 percent of the funds will be invested in resilience projects where transit systems sustained the worst of the storm damage, on projects that demonstrate that they would reduce the risk of damage to public transportation assets done by future natural disasters. Here is [a list of all funded resilience projects](#).

## NEW NCSL RESOURCES



[LEGISLATORS DISCUSS LONG TERM SOLUTIONS TO TRANSPORTATION FUNDING](#). This NCSL [blog post](#) details roundtable discussions from [NCSL's 2014 Legislative Summit in Minneapolis](#) with legislators looking to find more sustainable solutions to transportation funding.

### [CAN AN APP MAKE TEENS BETTER DRIVERS?](#)

This NCSL [blog post](#) looks at a study of a cell phone application that could increase teen driver

safety on the road. This study was presented to legislators at the [NCSL's Street Smart: Innovations in Traffic Safety Pre-Conference in Minneapolis](#).

### **NCSL Resources (cont. from page 3)**

**PEDESTRIAN CROSSING: 50-STATE SUMMARY.** Check out NCSL's [summary](#) of how states are combating the rise in pedestrian injuries and fatalities and creating more walkable communities.

**SHIFTING GEARS: PRIVATE SOLUTIONS FOR SENIOR TRANSPORTATION.** Read this NCSL [LegisBrief](#) to learn how states are supporting private transportation options that can help ensure lifelong mobility and quality of life for older adults.

**TRANSPORTATION ACCESS AND MOBILITY LEGISLATION DATABASE.** This regularly updated [online database](#) tracks state bills that aim to help people who face transportation challenges due to income, disability or age.

**NCSL ON-SITE PRESENTATIONS.** NCSL can come to you! We offer [onsite expert presentations and technical assistance](#) on access and mobility topics.

**OTHER NCSL TRANSPORTATION NEWSLETTERS.** NCSL also publishes the monthly [Transport Report](#) and [Federal Transportation Update](#). To subscribe, e-mail [Kevin Pula](#).

### **OTHER NEW RESOURCES**

**MOVING AN AGE-FRIENDLY DC: TRANSPORTATION FOR ALL AGES.** This [report](#) from the Coalition for Smarter Growth focuses on transportation policy and planning for the aging population in Washington, D.C. It includes how to target

investments and coordinate services that will benefit older adults and make communities more pedestrian- and transit-friendly.

### **CALENDAR**

- [21<sup>st</sup> National Conference on Rural Public and Intercity Bus Transportation](#), Monterey, Calif., Oct. 26-29.
- [Shaping the New Future of Paratransit: International Paratransit Conference](#), Monterey, Calif., Oct. 29-31.
- [Webinar: Frequently Asked Questions on the ADA: Alternative Modes of Transportation](#). Nov. 19, 2-3:30 p.m. EDT.
- [2014 National Rural Transportation Conference](#), Cincinnati, Dec. 3-5.
- [2014 NCSL Forum](#), Washington, D.C., Dec. 10-12.
- [Moving Active Transportation to Higher Ground: Opportunities for Accelerating the Assessment of Health Impacts](#), Washington, D.C., April 13-14, 2015.
- [Community Transportation Association of America EXPO](#), Tampa, Fla., May 31–June 5 2015.
- *For information about state-specific transit association events in 2014, see this [CTAA calendar](#).*

**TRAVEL TRAINING FOR OLDER ADULTS.** This TRB [project](#) aims to help transit agencies and human service providers implement, sustain, and evaluate travel training for older adults so they can use fixed route public transit or other modes of travel. This will improve the mobility of older adults and lead to active, connected, and independent lives.

**WHO'S ON BOARD 2014: MOBILITY ATTITUDES SURVEY.** The Transit Center recently published a [report](#) looking at American's attitudes toward transit. It found that travel time, reliability, and cost are still

some of the most important factors in a person's use of transit.

### Other New Resources (cont. from page 4)

**UBER ROLLS OUT ACCESSIBLE RIDES IN THREE U.S. CITIES.** Riders in [Chicago](#), [Houston](#) and [Philadelphia](#) who need wheelchair accessible rides can now request an Uber using UberACCESS and Uber WAV. Uber's Houston accessible ride access comes after a July [lawsuit alleging ADA](#) violations in Texas against Uber, Lyft and Yellow Cab.



**MOBILITY MANAGEMENT NEWS: AUGUST 2014.** The [newest edition](#) of the National Center for Mobility Management newsletter has been released.

**COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION MAGAZINE: SMALL URBAN TRANSIT.** The latest [edition](#) of CTAA's magazine looks at the impact of urban transit in places with populations from 50,000 to 199,000 around the country.

**REDUCED FARE PROGRAMS FOR OLDER ADULTS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: A PEER REVIEW OF POLICIES.** This [article](#) in the Journal of Public Transportation systematically compares reduced fare policies in 10 major U.S. cities.

**MODEL REGULATIONS FOR ACCESSIBLE TAXICABS AND FOR-HIRE VEHICLES.** The International Association of Transportation Regulators recently published [model regulations](#) for accessible taxis and for-hire vehicles.

**INNOVATIVE OPERATING STRATEGIES FOR PARATRANSIT SERVICES.** This Transportation Research Board [report](#) explores innovative strategies for operating paratransit.

## How to Get the NCSL Getting There Newsletter

More than 2,500 federal, state, local and private sector stakeholders across the country and around the world receive this newsletter each quarter.

To get NCSL's Getting There newsletter in your inbox, email [amelia.myers@ncsl.org](mailto:amelia.myers@ncsl.org) with your contact details.

Past issues (including our previous incarnation, the Transportation Coordination Quarterly) are online at <http://www.ncsl.org/default.aspx?tabid=20687>.

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