

# FTA

FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

## Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative

National Conference of State Legislatures

Legislative Summit

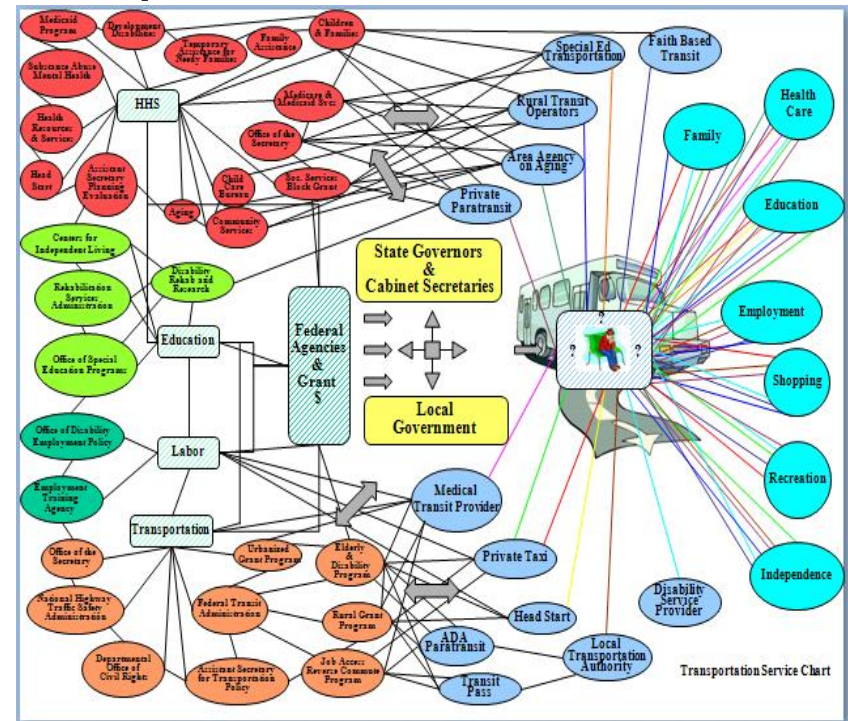
August 6, 2012



U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Transit Administration

# History: United We Ride & Coordinated Transportation

- More than 80 Federal programs funding transportation
- Different eligibility, different requirements
- Service duplication
- Service Gaps
- Excess capacity
- Customer service nightmare



# UWR Objectives

- Coordinated Planning
  - Getting the BORPSAT
- Mobility Management
  - Broad set of tools & tasks to improve transportation choices
- One-Call Centers
  - No wrong door, one call for your ride
- State Leadership

# Veterans & Service Members--Mobility Challenges

- Veterans & Service Members
  - 13% of veterans have disability, 25% of OEF/OIF veterans
  - 40% of veterans live in rural areas
  - Recent vets face PTS (37%) and TBI (10-20%) challenges
  - VA only provides transportation to medical care
  - OEF/OIF veteran unemployment: 9.2% in April '12; but 29% for 18-24 men
- Military Families
  - Professional military leaves more spouses, children
  - 63% of military families live outside bases
  - Military spouses face 26% unemployment



# Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Transit  
Administration**



Department of  
Veterans Affairs

Direct Funding Partners  
Department of Transportation  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
Department of Labor

Other Partners  
Department of Defense  
Department of Health & Human Services  
Military and Veterans Service Organizations

# About “VTCLI”

- Connect veteran & military community members to existing community transportation resources
- Build out One-Call/One-Click Centers in local communities
- Capital technology investment
- Program planning, marketing, outreach & evaluation
- 2011 – 55 grants awarded, \$34M
- 2012 – 90 grants, \$29M
  - 38 grants - \$26.6M-capital
  - 52 grants - \$2.4M-research



# Broad Funding Eligibility

## Section 5309 Capital

- Hardware (Computers, Servers)
- In-Vehicle Technology
- Software
- Other Capital Costs
  - Facility-Related Capital (Purchase, Lease, Alteration)
  - Design & Engineering
  - Project Administration (Up to 10% of Costs)

## Section 5312 Research

- Marketing
- Outreach
- Coordinated Planning
- Performance Measurement
- Other support activities instrumental to *implementing* One-Call/One-Click project





# VTCLI Project Goals

- Establish or expand a one-call/one-click transportation resource center
  - Include resources for veterans, service members and military families
  - Promote use of center with military community
- Create partnerships between transportation providers and veterans and military communities
- Increase involvement of veterans and military communities in local Coordinated Human Services Transportation Planning process

# What does success look like?

- Grantees complete an operational one-call/one-click center
- The project areas and grantees better understand the transportation needs of veterans, service members and military families
- Grantees and partners improve coordination to effectively meet these needs
- Grantees develop effective measures of outcomes for various stakeholders

# VTCLI Technical Assistance Team

- American Public Transportation Association,
- Armed Forces Services Corporation
- Easter Seals
- Harman Consulting
- Joblinks Employment Transportation Center
- National Resource Center for Human Service Transportation Coordination (NRC)

# 3 Step Model to Serve the Military Community

## Phase 1: Needs Analysis

**Perform an Inventory of Needs for Service Members, Veterans, and Military Families in Your Community**

## Phase 2: Resource Planning

**Undertake an Analysis of What Needs Can Be Met based on Current and Planned Resources**

## Phase 3: Outreach

**Communicate Current and New Transportation Programs**

# TA Strategy – Public Website

Concept: Create one-stop source for information on inclusion of veterans and military families in coordinated public transportation, as well as for “public” information of and about VTCLI projects

Content includes:

- Links to One-Call Toolkit and related documents
- Technology Deployment checklist and related materials
- Guide to Engaging Your Military Community
- Bookshelf on research & literature related to transportation for veterans, service members and military families
- Material on operating funds, coordinated planning, etc.
- General information on VTCLI, its partners and its projects

# TA Strategy – Open Gov Tools

- Shared Workspace - DOL's "ePolicyWorks" platform – online community to facilitate peer-to-peer exchange and to help keep FTA and TA partnership abreast of sites' focuses and progress

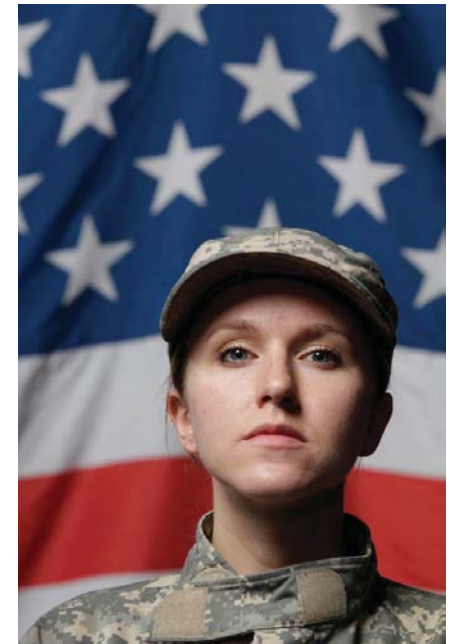
Content may include:

- Maps and other visually presented data for VTCLI
  - Abstracts of VTCLI projects
  - Sites' reports on progress and/or technical assistance
  - Site-specific information not appropriate for mass distribution
  - Opportunity to address and share issues, topics of concern
- Online Dialogue Tool – hold public online dialogues to facilitate
    - Development of coordinated plan to include veterans needs
    - Development of One-Call/One-Click implementation plan

# Veterans National Dialogue

*“Strengthening Transportation Choices So We Can Serve Those Who Have Served Their Country”*

- Easter Seals Project Action conducted the dialogue from May 7 to June 8
- Conducted with the support of DOT, VA, DOD, DOL and HHS.
- Registrant Key Areas of Interest
  - Public transportation -31%
  - Veterans services-27%
  - Human services-10%
  - Medical & private transportation -10%  
(5% each)



# Veterans National Dialogue

## Key Findings

- **Funding**

- Provide funding operational costs for transportation
- Create half fares for veterans
- Improve & provide funding for rural transportation for veterans
- Add transit benefits to VA Smart Card

- **Technology**

- Transportation options on smartphones

- **Collaboration**

- Partner to improve rural transportation for veterans
- Implement travel training for vets
- Create partnerships between senior and veterans' transportation options
- Encourage VA hospitals to collaborate with transit





# For more information and technical assistance resources:

[www.fta.dot.gov/veterans](http://www.fta.dot.gov/veterans)

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