



GETTING THERE, TOGETHER

NCSL Launches New Mobility Newsletter

Welcome to NCSL's new "Getting There" newsletter! From 2010 to 2012, NCSL's popular [Transportation Coordination Quarterly](#) highlighted news and trends related to the [coordination](#) of transportation services across agencies and providers. This new quarterly publication will broadly explore state and federal activities that [help folks get where they want to go](#)—especially people with disabilities, low incomes or other transportation challenges. As always, the focus will be on state and federal policy developments, plus the latest on upcoming events, current funding opportunities and new publications and resources. Special thanks to the Federal Transit Administration and the U.S. Department of Labor, whose support makes this newsletter possible.

NCSL Continues Work on Access and Mobility

Getting around is a cinch for most of us who own a personal vehicle or can easily access public transit. But many Americans lack workable transportation options due to age, limited physical ability, constrained income or—for one reason or another—not having a valid driver's license. In rural, sparsely populated areas, choices are even more limited. This newsletter is just one of NCSL's ongoing [resources](#) for legislators, legislative staff and others about effective, efficient and coordinated transportation services—especially for those who need it the most. See pages 4 and 5 for more NCSL resources.

LAWMAKERS BACK AT WORK

The first week of January marked the first wave of new state legislative sessions for the year, with 15 state legislatures reconvening and four more continuing year-round sessions. This means that 3,144 state lawmakers are already back at work to hammer out new policies and fix broken ones. All the states except Montana, Nevada, North Dakota and Texas are [due to hold legislative sessions sometime this year](#).

2013 LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

State legislatures play an important role in facilitating transportation access and mobility for all kinds of users. In 2013 sessions alone, nearly [200 relevant legislative measures](#) were considered in at least 39 states and the District of Columbia. Here are details about some of the many enacted state bills from across the country.

CONNECTICUT. A new state Department on Aging was created at the beginning of

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State Legislative Activity (cont. from page 1)



2013 and [Senate Bill 837](#) transferred to it the duties of the Department of Social Services' Aging Services Division, including continuous study of older adults' transportation needs and coordination with the Department of Transportation to provide adequate transportation services for them.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA. [Bill 7](#) authorized the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) to distribute funds from a [federal grant program](#) to public and nonprofit entities for vehicles to transport older adults and people with disabilities.

FLORIDA. [Senate Bill 1768](#) continued an exemption from public records requirements for the personal identifying information of paratransit applicants or recipients. Without this legislation, the exemption would have automatically expired on Oct. 2, 2013.

KENTUCKY. Within a section that amends sales taxes on motor vehicles, [House Bill 440](#) re-enacted a sales tax exemption for equipment or adaptive devices needed to accommodate a driver or passenger with disabilities.

MAINE. Maine's [House Bill 61](#) addressed the issue of transportation benefits for families who are transitioning from public assistance to employment. The legislation allows working families that voluntarily ask for their Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits to be terminated to receive transitional

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2013 STATE ELECTIONS

According to NCSL's [StateVote](#), off-year elections tend to be quiet affairs, and 2013 was no exception. With regular legislative elections scheduled in only New Jersey and Virginia, plus 16 special elections in eight other states to fill vacated seats, 2013 had the fewest state-level contests of the decade and no legislative chambers changed hands. Besides candidate races, voters in six states weighed in on 31 statewide [ballot measures](#), of which a whopping 27 were approved. Among these, Maine approved a \$100 million bond issue for highway, bridge, port, rail, aviation and transit projects.

PA. LATEST TO RAISE GAS TAX

Pennsylvania's [House Bill 1060](#) has made it the sixth state in 2013—after [Maryland](#), [Massachusetts](#), [Vermont](#), [Virginia](#) and [Wyoming](#)—where the legislature increased overall state gas taxes. Notably, all these states except Wyoming moved toward a gas tax that tracks with the economy to some degree, either by tying the rate to inflation or basing it on the price of fuel. In contrast, no state enacted a gas tax increase of any kind in 2010, 2011 or 2012. For details, see [NCSL's Transportation Funding and Finance Legislation Database](#).

NEW TENN. MULTIMODAL FUND

The Tennessee Department of Transportation recently created a new [multimodal access fund](#) to improve conditions for transit users, bicyclists and pedestrians—including travelers with disabilities. Projects require only a 5-percent local match with the rest coming from the state, up to a total project cost of \$1 million. Eligible projects include sidewalks and pedestrian crossing improvements as well as bus, park-and-ride and bicycle facilities. The legislature approved \$30 million over three years for the fund, and the first round of applications were due in December 2013.

NATIONAL NEWS

New National Center on Mobility Management

In September, the U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) [selected](#) a three-organization consortium to lead the new National Center for Mobility Management (NCMM). Together, the [American Public Transportation Association](#) (APTA), [Community Transportation Association of America](#) (CTAA) and [Easter Seals Transportation Group](#) will help communities adopt transportation strategies and mobility options that advance health, economic vitality, self-sufficiency and community. The Center's activities will support FTA grantees, mobility managers and partners in adopting proven, sustainable and replicable transportation coordination, mobility management and one call-one click information services. Check out NCMM's [new website](#) or join them on Twitter at @4mmgmt.

Federal Changes All Over the Place

In 2013, in response to the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (or [MAP-21](#)), FTA proposed changes to existing rules—or gave advance notice of such proposals—on a number of issues including [Formula Grants for Rural Areas](#), the [Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program](#) and the [National Safety Program and National Transit Asset Management System](#) (on which NCSL submitted [public comments](#) on Dec. 20, 2013). FTA also published [final policy guidance](#) on the new, streamlined evaluation and rating process for [New and Small Starts Projects](#).

Flying the More Accessible Skies

On Nov. 4, U.S. Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx [announced](#) that, in an ongoing effort to ensure equal access to air transportation for all travelers, the U.S. DOT will require airline websites and automated airport kiosks to be accessible to passengers with

disabilities. Airlines will have several years to comply with these and other new rules. Also on Nov. 4, the U.S. DOT [fined](#) U.S. Airways \$1.2 million for failing to provide adequate wheelchair assistance to passengers with disabilities—one of the largest fines ever assessed by the department in a disability case.

United We Ride Moves to New FTA Division

The [federal United We Ride program](#) is now part of a new division within the [FTA Office of Program Management](#) and its Office of Transit Programs. The new division incorporates United We Ride activities, FTA's rural and specialized transportation programs, Technical Assistance Centers and related human service research.

The Return of Veterans' Transportation Grants



As of Dec. 3, 2013, the [Grants for Transportation of Veterans in Highly Rural Areas Program](#) re-opened its application process. The deadline for the [new grant application period](#) is midnight on Feb. 3. The

program funds veteran service organizations, state veteran service agencies and partnering organizations to provide innovative transportation services to veterans in highly rural counties. The grant program office will host a [conference call](#) to answer questions about the program and the application process on Jan. 21 at 2 pm ET.

Could You Be The Next National RTAP?

FTA is [soliciting proposals](#) for a five-year cooperative agreement for the National Rural Transportation Assistance Program (RTAP). The [National RTAP](#) provides training and other support to rural, small urban and tribal transit operators and related state agencies across the nation. Proposals are due by Feb. 10.

State Legislative Activity (cont. from page 2)

transportation benefits. It also directs the Department of Health and Human Services to adopt rules on transitional transportation assistance for families that lose TANF eligibility due to increased employment income.

MARYLAND. Deep within the state's transportation funding overhaul, [House Bill 1515](#), was a provision that directed the Maryland Department of Transportation to study a possible new voucher program that would provide free or reduced transit fares for low-income individuals. The final report, however, submitted on Dec. 13, 2013, recommended not proceeding with such a program.

MINNESOTA. Among other items, [House Bill 1233](#)—the health and human services budget—required the commissioner of transportation, when distributing certain funds, to give priority whenever possible to creating transportation options for older adults.

MISSISSIPPI. In Mississippi's second special session, [House Bill 1](#) extended a temporary program that provides non-emergency transportation to dialysis services for end-stage renal disease patients who are over age 65 or have disabilities, whose income is less than 135 percent of federal poverty guidelines. The program is now due to expire on June 30, 2014.

NORTH CAROLINA. To leverage all eligible federal funds for operating assistance to rural and human service transportation systems, the state appropriations act, [Senate Bill 402](#), gave the North Carolina Department of Transportation additional flexibility during the 2013–2015 biennium to redistribute funds from certain grant programs based on assessed system needs.

NORTH DAKOTA. If public transportation funds are not spent by a county during a contract period, [House Bill 1122](#) now allows the funds to be redistributed or used by

the director of the state Department of Transportation for transit coordination purposes.

TEXAS. The Texas legislature meets for only about five months every other year, but they typically consider more than 12,000 bills in that time. Amidst the flurry of legislation in 2013 were several bills related to transportation access and mobility. [Senate Bill 8](#), for example, set out rules for the state's Medicaid transportation program; [House Bill 1123](#) allowed toll discounts for recipients of certain military honors; and [House Bill 1545](#) required a study of the feasibility of standardizing the transit and paratransit eligibility process for people with disabilities. The study must also review existing limits on transportation services for visitors with disabilities. The final report is due by Jan. 1, 2015.

WASHINGTON. Senate Bill 5072 provides a sales tax exemption for eligible add-on automotive adaptive equipment for veterans or members of the armed forces with disabilities.

NEW NCSL RESOURCES



VETERANS' TRANSPORTATION WEBINAR ON DEMAND. View this recent [webinar](#), based on a recent report, to learn how states are helping veterans access transportation.

NCSL ON-SITE PRESENTATIONS. NCSL can come to you! We offer no- or low-cost [on-site technical assistance and expert presentations](#) on human service transportation coordination and other access and mobility topics.

TRANSPORTATION ACCESS AND MOBILITY LEGISLATION DATABASE. This [online, searchable database](#) summarizes

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New NCSL Resources (cont. from page 4)

and tracks state bills across the nation that aim to improve transportation access and mobility for people facing challenges due to income, disability or age.

NCSL 2013 FALL FORUM. Check out [presentations](#) and [other resources](#) from the NCSL Fall Forum, including our [Point A to Point B pre-conference](#) on transportation access and performance.

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

OTHER NEW RESOURCES

MAKING FIRST/ LAST MILE CONNECTIONS TO TRANSIT. The NCMM [looks at](#) how car-sharing and bike-sharing programs help transit users get to their final destinations.



COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION MAGAZINE: SPECIAL EDITION. This [special edition](#) spotlights CTAA's work on inclusive transportation planning and features demonstration projects on promising inclusive planning practices.

TRANSIT PLANNING 4 ALL WEBINARS. [Webinar recordings](#) and [slideshows](#) are available for these past webinars: "Social Media and Inclusive Transportation Planning," "What It Really Means to Be Inclusive" and "What's

CALENDAR

- [Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting](#), Washington, D.C., Jan. 12 – 16.
- [People on the Move: The ADA and Beyond \[Easter Seals Project Action Online Course\]](#), Jan. 13 – Feb. 28.
- [Construct, Repair, Alter or Rehabilitate Your Capital Assets: Don't Forget ADA \[FTA Webinar\]](#), Jan. 16, 2 pm ET.
- [Grants for Transportation of Veterans in Highly Rural Areas Program \[Conference Call\]](#), Jan. 21, 2 pm ET.
- [Upping Your Game: Best Practices in Applying for Grants and Responding to RFPs \[National Center on Senior Transportation Webinar\]](#), Jan. 29, 2 pm ET.
- [Inclusive Planning and Design in Mobility Management \[NCMM Webinar\]](#), Feb. 12, 2 pm ET.
- [Frequently Asked Questions on the ADA: Fixed Route and ADA Complementary Paratransit \[Easter Seals Project Action Webinar\]](#), Feb. 26, 2 pm ET.
- [APTA 2014 Revenue Management Summit](#), New Orleans, La., Mar. 16 – 19.
- [APTA 2014 Bus and Paratransit Conference](#), Kansas City, Mo., May 4 – 7.
- [CTAA EXPO 2014](#). St. Paul, Minn., June 8 – 13.
- [NCSL 2014 Legislative Summit](#), Minneapolis, Minn., Aug. 6 – 22.
- [21st National Conference on Rural Public and Intercity Bus Transportation](#), Monterey, Calif., Oct. 26 – 29.

Research Got to Do With It? Applying Evidence-based Practices to Improve the Participation of People with Disabilities and Older Adults in Coordinated Planning."

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS, SUSTAINABILITY AND SOCIOECONOMIC FACTORS 2013. A [TRB Transportation Research Record](#) explores performance indicators to

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Other New Resources (cont. from page 5)

assess urban transportation systems including urban core transit access to low-income jobs. It also looks at transportation in an aging society.

DON'T GAMBLE ON SENIOR TRANSPORTATION: WINNING LOCAL MATCH FOR FEDERAL GRANTS. A National Center on Senior Transportation [archived webinar series](#) offers practical suggestions on how to secure matching funds.

VEHICLE SHARING AMONG HUMAN SERVICE PROVIDERS IN MINNESOTA. A University of Minnesota [report](#) identifies barriers to vehicle sharing among human services providers in Minnesota and possible solutions.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES FOR LOCAL LIVABILITY AND MULTI-MODAL TRANSPORTATION WEBINAR. A recorded Reconnecting America [webinar](#) speaks to how regions can measure transportation progress and performance, consistent with state and federal goals.

NEMT COORDINATORS IN MINNESOTA. The Minnesota Council on Transportation Access [documents](#) how select Minnesota counties use transportation coordinators to deliver non-emergency medical transportation.

TRANSIT AGENCIES' USE OF CONTRACTING TO PROVIDE SERVICE. This U.S. GAO [report](#) shares the findings from

a survey of 463 transit agencies about how much and why they contract out operations and services.

A TOOL FOR ASSESSING THE ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF SPENDING ON PUBLIC TRANSIT. A recorded Center for Urban Transportation Research [webcast](#), based on a [2013 report](#), discusses an Excel-based template tool that estimates the economic impacts of transit spending.



MORE DEVELOPMENT FOR YOUR TRANSIT DOLLAR. The Institute for Transportation and Development Policy [analyzes](#) 21 transit corridors to determine cost-effective, transit-oriented development options.

MOVING TO WORK. A year-long [study](#) by Reconnecting America and Urban Habitat finds that transit access is often overlooked among the many barriers to career advancement for low-income workers in the Bay Area.

How to Get the NCSL *Getting There* Newsletter

Nearly 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, e-mail jaime.rall@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>.