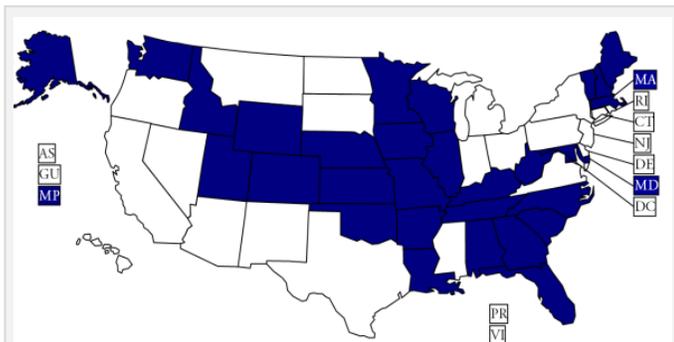




UPDATE: NCSL RESEARCH ON COORDINATING COUNCILS

NCSL is now smack-dab in the middle of our 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 29 states and one territory that have state coordinating councils. See something wrong here? [Let us know!](#)

To the best of our knowledge, at least 29 states and the Northern Mariana Islands now have state level councils in place. If you are connected to the council in your state and you haven’t heard from our researchers yet, [please get in touch!](#) We’d love to check in with you as we wrap up our research on these valuable efforts.

2014 LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

States legislatures saw a flurry of activity in the second quarter of 2014 as [half 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.

COLORADO. [House Bill 1029](#) thoroughly amends and clarifies the state laws on reserved parking for people with disabilities. Changes include higher penalties for some offenses.

CONNECTICUT.

Medicaid providers in Connecticut will now have new audit protocols, thanks to [House Bill 5500](#). Among other things, the legislation tasks the state commissioner of Social Services with establishing audit protocols for specific providers or categories of service—

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State Legislative Activity (cont. from page 1)

including emergency and nonemergency medical transportation—to help providers comply with state and federal Medicaid requirements.



LOUISIANA. House Concurrent Resolution 109 asks the state Department of Health and Hospitals to study the feasibility, desirability and practicality of other modes of transportation besides ambulances for non-emergency medical transportation.

MARYLAND. In response to recent federal audits and other reports, House Bill 1238 is intended as a next step to help fix ongoing fiscal issues at Maryland's Developmental Disabilities Administration. The bill requires the agency to conduct an independent, cost-driven study to set payment rates for providers of community-based services, including transportation services, for people with developmental disabilities and to develop a sound fiscal billing and payment system.

MINNESOTA. Within a larger appropriations act, House File 3172 addresses definitions, policies, procedures, assessment tools and administrative structures for nonemergency medical transportation services in Minnesota and changes the membership and duties of the state's Nonemergency Medical Transportation Advisory Committee.

Also in Minnesota, Senate File 2268 expands the scope of the Metropolitan Council's Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee. The committee's duties now include developing and managing policies related to the accessibility of fixed-route transit for people with disabilities and advising the council on long-range plans to meet the transportation needs of the disability community.

NEW MULTIMODAL DENVER UNION STATION UNVEILED

On May 9, the new Union Station in Denver celebrated its grand opening. The historic building is now a modern, multimodal transportation hub with a new 22-bay bus concourse—part of a larger plan to integrate light rail, Amtrak and commuter rail with local, regional and intercity bus service and free downtown circulator routes. The \$500 million public-private project was supported by federal, state and local financing.



Creating a one-stop transit hub, it is hoped, will aid ongoing efforts to help older adults and people with disabilities access transit more easily—especially as Denver's half-fare discount program for disabled transit riders grew by 5,356 active cardholders in 2012 alone. Denver's buses are already fully accessible for people with disabilities and the city is working to make sure that the commuter rail that will go from Union Station to the airport starting in 2016 will be, too. The train cars, for example, have already been redesigned based on input from the disabled community.

NATIONAL NEWS

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

On July 31, just a few days before the [declining balance](#) of the federal Highway Trust Fund (HTF) would have forced the U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) to [delay reimbursements to states for highway construction projects](#), Congress approved the [Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2014 \(H.R.5021\)](#).



Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) signs H.R. 5021 with House Ways & Means Committee chair Dave Camp (R-Mich.) and House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee chair Bill Shuster (R-Pa.) looking on. Source: www.speaker.gov

The bill extends authorization through May 31, 2015, for federal surface transportation programs—both highways and transit—and [provides nearly \\$11 billion](#), fully offset, to the Highway Trust Fund to ensure its solvency through May. The president is expected to sign the bill upon receipt.

What's Next for Reauthorization?

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

Here's what's happened so far: In April, the U.S. DOT unveiled its four-year [GROW AMERICA Act](#), based on the president's [FY 2015 Budget Proposal](#), and sent it to Congress for consideration. On May 12, the [Senate Environment and Public Works Committee](#) released its [six-year reauthorization for highway programs](#) and [passed it to the full Senate](#) with few amendments. The Senate Banking Committee, which has jurisdiction over mass transit, has not yet marked up its title, but did hold a [hearing](#) in May on the state of America's transit systems. Similarly, neither the Senate Commerce Committee nor the Senate Finance Committee have put forward legislation for their areas of jurisdiction, which are highway safety and funding, respectively. No activity has taken place in the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, which covers all aspects of surface transportation on the House side.

At the same time, in an effort to ensure the long-term solvency of the Highway Trust Fund, Senators Bob Corker (R-Tenn.) and Christopher Murphy (D-Conn.) [recently proposed a 12-cent increase in federal gas and diesel taxes over two years](#), followed by indexing the tax rates to inflation, which would raise \$164 billion over 10 years. The senators support offsetting the revenues through tax relief measures.

As noted [in an open letter](#) from 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. Discussions about long-term options are expected to come after the November election.

National News (cont. from page 3)

New "Ladders of Opportunity" Grant Program

The U.S. DOT has [announced](#) that it is making approximately \$100 million available in competitive grant funds through the Federal Transit Administration's new [Ladders of Opportunity Initiative](#). Funds can 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. Proposals must also address how the project will support partnerships and coordinated planning among state and local governments and social, human service and transportation providers.

50th Anniversary of Landmark Transit Law

On July 9, 1964, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Urban Mass Transportation Act to achieve, in his words, "better systems for getting our people to



work and home again—and getting them there with speed and safety and economy and comfort." The landmark law provided capital assistance for bus, rail and streetcar systems and created the Urban Mass Transportation Administration, which was renamed the Federal Transit Administration in 1991.

Grants Awarded for Rural Vets' Transportation

In July, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the White House Rural Council [announced](#) eight grant awards totaling just over \$815,000 to improve access to health care for veterans in highly rural areas. The grants will help more than 11,000 veterans in seven states by funding transportation services for them to get to and from VA medical centers and other facilities.

NEW NCSL RESOURCES



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

[UBERX AND LYFT DISRUPT TRANSPORTATION STATUS QUO](#). This NCSL [blog post](#) looks at Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) and how they are capturing lawmakers' imagination—and scrutiny.

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

[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 Resources (cont. from page 4)

NCSL ON-SITE PRESENTATIONS. NCSL can come to you! We offer on-site 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 [Jaime Rall](#).

CALENDAR

- [National Town Hall Meeting: Moving from Uncertainty to Long-Term Transportation Investment](#) [U.S. DOT virtual meeting], Aug. 6, 1 p.m. ET.
- [Neighborhood Wayfinding](#) [Easter Seals Project Action Webinar], Aug. 6, 2 p.m. ET.
- [State Public Transportation Partnership Conference](#), Philadelphia, Aug. 13 – 15.
- [NCSL Legislative Summit](#), Minneapolis, Aug. 19 – 22, including a one-day event on traffic safety.
- [What Barrier? Minimizing Challenges and Obstacles to Coordinated Transportation Planning to Improve the Participation of People with Disabilities and Older Adults](#) [Transit Planning 4 All Webinar], Aug. 20, 2 p.m. ET.
- [17th Annual National Tribal Transportation Conference](#), Anchorage, Alaska, Sept. 22 – 25.
- [APTA 2014 Annual Meeting & EXPO](#), Houston, Oct. 12 – 15.
- [21st 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.
- [2014 National Rural Transportation Conference](#), Cincinnati, Dec. 3 – 5.
- [2014 NCSL Forum](#), Washington, D.C., Dec. 10 – 12.
- *For information about state-specific transit association events in 2014, see this [CTAA calendar](#).*

OTHER NEW RESOURCES

MAINTAINING TRANSIT EFFECTIVENESS UNDER MAJOR FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS. This Transportation Research Board [synthesis](#) shares hundreds of actions implemented by transit agencies to improve their cost-effectiveness, including techniques for paratransit, and how they have engaged their communities during times of fiscal challenges.

WHAT IS LIVABLE? COMMUNITY PREFERENCES OF OLDER ADULTS. This AARP [report](#) aims to quantify the degree to which a community has elements—especially those related to transportation—that meet people’s needs regardless of age, income, physical ability, ethnicity and other factors.

VETERAN MOBILITY IN SMALL URBAN AND RURAL AREAS. An archived [recording and other materials](#) are available for this recent Center for Urban Transportation Research webinar detailing the results of a [study](#) on veterans’ mobility.

IMPACTS OF DIALYSIS TRANSPORTATION ON FLORIDA’S COORDINATED PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMS. This [report](#) from the National Center for Transit Research at the University of South Florida considers dialysis transportation and its impacts on community transportation coordinators.

COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS OF RURAL AND SMALL URBAN TRANSIT. Another new [report](#) from the National Center for Transit Research discusses the qualitative and quantitative costs and benefits of small urban and rural public transit systems in the United States, including mobility benefits for transportation-disadvantaged populations.

Other New Resources (cont. from page 5)

COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION MAGAZINE: CHARTING MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION. The latest [edition](#) of CTAA's magazine explores non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT), its profound role in public and community transportation, the impacts of health care trends on transit systems of all sizes and in all types of communities, and how transit can support successful health care outcomes.

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.

FTA CIRCULAR: ENHANCED MOBILITY OF SENIORS AND INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES PROGRAM. This federal [circular](#) incorporates recent changes to FTA's Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities program.

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



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

2014 MOBILITY MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE RESOURCES. Materials from CTAA's 2014 Mobility Management Conference are now available [online](#).

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 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>.

Special thanks to the Federal Transit Administration and the U.S. Department of Labor, whose support makes this newsletter possible.