



Statewide Suicide  
Prevention Council



alaska  
brain injury  
network

Advisory Board on Alcoholism  
and Drug Abuse



Alaska Mental Health Board

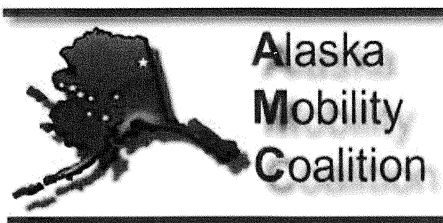
**Governor's Council on Disabilities  
and Special Education**

## Coordinated Transportation for Alaskans

Working with the Alaska Mobility Coalition (AMC), the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education, Alaska Mental Health Board, Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse and the Alaska Commission on Aging, in collaboration with the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, the Alaska Brain Injury Network and the Alaska Suicide Prevention Council, have identified as two of their joint priorities, the creation of legislation addressing the role of public and community transportation in Alaska and the establishment of a permanent Coordinated Transportation Commission. The partner boards also support the creation of a statewide fund for public and community transportation in Alaska. Following are overviews of these priorities:

Creation of legislation identifying 1) the role of public and community transportation in Alaska and 2) establishing a permanent commission to address public and community transportation in Alaska. Alaska does not have enabling statutes within state law that define the state's role in public and community transportation. This role should be defined and developed to serve all public and community transportation users – including Alaskans with disabilities. Additionally, in July 2010, Governor Parnell signed an administrative order reestablishing a statewide task force on public and community transportation in Alaska that has a sunset provision (January 2012). The AMC and the partner boards believe a permanent commission will be needed to address the ongoing transportation needs of Alaskans across the state.

Creation of a statewide fund for public and community transportation in Alaska. Alaska is one of only three states that does not provide operating support for public transportation. Therefore, in Alaska, the burden shifts to local governments, tribal governments, and non-profits to partner with the federal government to provide these services. In some cases, transit agencies have had to turn down federal money because they did not have the match funds available. This has had an impact on all users of public transportation, particularly in tough economic times when bus fares have increased and hours of service have been cut back. The boards support requesting \$3 million dollars to partner with local transit systems, with a match requirement (in kind or cash) for transit systems to participate in the program.



**Achieving mobility through community appropriate transportation services**

3705 Arctic Blvd #1777  
Anchorage, AK 99503.  
907-240-2702

February 15, 2011

Representative Cathy Munoz  
State Capitol Room 403  
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Representative Munoz:

On behalf of the Alaska Mobility Coalition (AMC), we strongly support HB 131 (Alaska Community and Public Transportation Advisory Board).

The AMC is a private, non-profit membership organization that represents and advocates for public and community transportation in Alaska. The AMC has ninety seven members across the state from Bethel to Prince of Wales Island. The AMC membership provides over seven million rides annually for Alaskans to get to work, school, shopping trips, recreational opportunities and medical appointments. For more information on the AMC, I have linked information from our website for your review (<http://www.alaskamobility.org>)

In the fall of 2008, former Governor Sarah Palin signed an administrative order creating the Governor's Coordinated Transportation Task Force. I have linked copy of the final report for your review. ([http://www.dot.state.ak.us/stwdplng/cttf/docs/CTTF\\_recommendations\\_report\\_signed\\_021101.pdf](http://www.dot.state.ak.us/stwdplng/cttf/docs/CTTF_recommendations_report_signed_021101.pdf)) The Governor task force recommended and we agree, that there needs to be a permanent voice at the state level to make state agencies to work together to share information and resources on coordinated transportation in Alaska.

Thank you for your efforts in supporting transit in Alaska. I look forward to working with you and the Alaska legislature on your legislation during the current session.

Sincerely,

David M. Levy  
Executive Director

# STATE OF ALASKA

## DEPT. OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

### *Alaska Commission on Aging*

SEAN PARNELL, GOVERNOR

P.O. BOX 110693  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-0693  
PHONE: (907) 465-3250  
FAX: (907) 465-1398

March 16, 2011

The Honorable Peggy Wilson, Chair  
House Transportation Committee  
Alaska State Capitol, Room 408  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

**Subject: Support for HB 131, Alaska Community and Public Transportation Advisory Board**

Dear Chair Wilson:

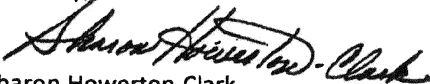
The Alaska Commission on Aging (ACoA) is pleased to offer our support of HB 131 that would establish a *permanent* Governor-appointed Coordinated Transportation Commission to address the ongoing community transportation needs of all Alaskans, specifically older Alaskans and Alaskans with physical and cognitive disabilities. This advisory board would be responsible for developing a long-range coordinated transportation plan that would include participating in policy-making decisions related to mobility of seniors and people with disabilities, identifying barriers related to community transportation, encouraging regional transportation planning to maximize limited resources and improving efficiencies, and providing assistance with coordinating resources to improve transportation services for people with special needs.

Transportation is one of the top needs consistently identified in statewide surveys of senior needs, including the elder-senior community forums and a statewide senior survey recently conducted by ACoA to determine priority concerns of older Alaskans. Seniors identified transportation not only as a barrier to accessing health care services but also as a factor leading to social isolation that prevents seniors from taking part in community life.

With the graying of Alaska's population, there will be an increasing number of older Alaskans who depend on reliable, safe, and accessible mobility options to take them to medical appointments, work, and volunteer placements, to the senior center for lunch, shopping and other purposes. Community transportation is a life-line for seniors and people with disabilities to ensure a health quality of life. Planning for effective transportation and efficient use of resources that serves all Alaskans is an investment in our future.

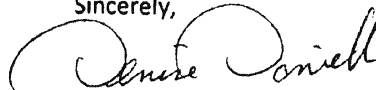
Thank you for your consideration and support of HB 131. Please contact Denise Daniello, ACoA's executive director (465-4879 or [denise.daniello@alaska.gov](mailto:denise.daniello@alaska.gov)) should you require additional information about our position.

Sincerely,



Sharon Howerton-Clark  
Chair, Alaska Commission on Aging

Sincerely,



Denise Daniello  
ACoA Executive Director

Cc: Vice-Chair Lance Pruitt  
Representative Eric Feige  
Representative Craig Johnson

Representative Max Gruenberg  
Representative Pete Peterson  
Representative Cathy Muñoz



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March 14, 2011

The Honorable Peggy Wilson, Chair  
House Transportation Committee  
Alaska State Capitol, Room 408  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RE: HB 131 (Munoz)--Support

Dear Chair Wilson:

On behalf of the members of AARP in Alaska, we encourage you and your colleagues on the House Transportation Committee to support HB 131, authored by your Committee colleague Representative Cathy Munoz and co-sponsored by Representative Chris Tuck.

HB 131 will establish an Alaska Community and Public Transportation Advisory Board which will have the opportunity to participate in long-range transportation planning.

From AARP's perspective, we would expect that the Advisory Board, among its other duties, would

- Consider the effects of transportation planning and land-use decisions on the mobility of older Alaskans and people with disabilities
- Coordinate planning and programming activities to ensure that regional priorities are reflected in fiscally constrained state transportation plans
- Examine the benefits of public transportation service improvements before undertaking major road-building projects; and
- Actively promote the public participation of consumers, including older people, in transportation planning decisions on such issues as routing services, placing and designing highways and roads, transportation demand management, and investing in and deploying intelligent transportation systems.

With the aging of Alaska's population, we will have an increasing number of older Alaskans for whom mobility will be a critical "peace of mind" issue. Planning for effective transportation that works for Alaskans of all ages and abilities is important now and will only become more important in the future.

AARP requests an "AYE" vote on HB 131.

Should you have any questions about our position, please feel free to contact me (586-3637) or Patrick Luby, AARP Advocacy Director (907-762-3314).

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Marie Darlin*

Marie Darlin, Coordinator  
AARP Capital City Task Force  
415 Willoughby Avenue, Apt. 506  
Juneau, AK 99801  
586-3637 (voice)  
463-3580 (fax)

CC: Vice-Chair Lance Pruitt  
Representative Eric Feige  
Representative Craig Johnson  
Representative Max Gruenberg  
Representative Pete Peterson  
Representative Cathy Munoz



JEDC.org  
612 West Willoughby Ave.  
Suite A  
Juneau, AK 99801  
Phone 907-523-2300  
Fax 907-463-3929

March 15, 2011

Honorable Cathy Munoz  
State Capitol Room 403  
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Representative Munoz:

The Juneau Economic Development Council (JEDC) enthusiastically supports HB 131 that will found a permanent Alaska Community and Public Transportation Advisory Board.

Public transportation provides positive economic impacts in small communities. A 2010 study entitled "The Economic Effects of Bus Transit in Small Cities" showed that the presence of bus transit significantly lowers unemployment rates, lowers growth in family assistance and food stamp payments, and increases population and employment. These findings suggest transit increases low-income individuals' ability to get and maintain jobs.

JEDC staff conducted executive interviews with ten of Juneau's larger private employers to ask how public transportation issues impacted business operations in regards to their employees. Six of these organizations, including Wal-Mart, Home Depot, Fred Meyers, Warehouse Demo Services (an employer at Costco), Goldbelt Hotel, and Safeway reported a significant number of their employees use the bus. Public transit use estimates among employees in these organizations ranged from 30% to 75%.

Combined, these organizations have more than 350 employees using public transportation to get to work. Generally the business operations of these establishments, along with the work schedules of their employees, are highly impacted by public transit schedules and bus stop locations. These and other businesses, rely on public transportation to be successful in our community.

Our recent work with the City and Borough of Juneau, Southeast Alaska Independent Living, REACH, Southeast Senior Services and the Alaska Mobility Coalition to develop a coordinated transportation plan for Juneau has demonstrated that a collaborative, integrated effort to coordinate transportation resources is in the best interests of our state and its citizens.

Sincerely,

  
Kurt Fredriksson  
Board Chair

  
Brian Holst  
Executive Director

Cc: Senator Dennis Egan  
Representative Beth Kerttula



JEDC.org  
612 West Willoughby Ave.  
Suite A  
Juneau, AK 99801  
Phone 907-523-2300  
Fax 907-463-3929

March 15, 2011

Honorable Cathy Munoz  
State Capitol Room 403  
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Representative Munoz:

While the Juneau Economic Development Council (JEDC) enthusiastically supports HB 131 and appreciates your leadership in developing statewide coordinated transportation planning, we are concerned the Advisory Board composition proposed in HB 131 has too few members which actually operate public transportation systems.

In FY10, Juneau residents and visitors took 1.23 million trips on the local Capital Transit bus system. This represents 3,380 rides per day, and a 22 percent increase over FY2002. The Capital City Transit system is currently working at capacity.

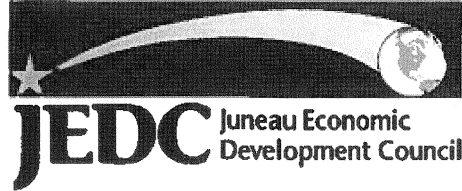
JEDC strongly suggests HB 131 be amended to add one additional municipality to the membership of the Alaska Community and Public Transportation Advisory Board.

Sincerely,

  
Kurt Fredriksson  
Board Chair

  
Brian Holst  
Executive Director

Cc: Senator Dennis Egan  
Representative Beth Kerttula



**RESOLUTION of the Board of Directors in support of State of Alaska House Bill 131**

"An Act establishing the Alaska Community and Public Transportation Advisory Board and relating to a long-range community and public transportation plan; and providing for an effective date."

Resolution 03-11

**WHEREAS**, JEDC has provided leadership for completion of the City and Borough of Juneau's (CBJ's) coordinated transportation plan.

**WHEREAS**, the Governor's Coordinated Transportation Task Force recommended there should be a permanent authority at the state level to ensure state agencies work together to share information and resources on coordinated transportation in Alaska.

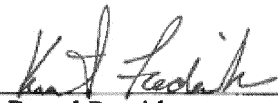
**WHEREAS**, coordination of transportation plans among state and local governments and other organizations providing transportation services is likely to be a requirement for federal transportation funding.

**WHEREAS**, the availability of public transportation is a key requirement for maintaining an adequate workforce for service jobs.

**WHEREAS**, House Bill 131 is a legislative priority for the Alaska Mobility Coalition, the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education, Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, the Alaska Commission on Aging, Alaska Mental health Trust Authority, Alaska Brain Injury Network and the Alaska Suicide Prevention Council.

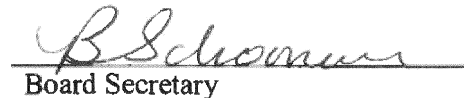
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

On this 15<sup>th</sup> day of March 2011, the Board of Directors of the Juneau Economic Development Council hereby authorizes JEDC to issue appropriate letters of support for House Bill 131.

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Board President

3-17-2011  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Board Secretary

3.17.2011  
Date