

Excerpted from the February 11, 2010 Governors Coordinated Transportation Task Force Executive Summary Long Term Recommendations:

“The Governor’s Coordinated Transportation Task Force (CTTF), tasked under Administrative Order 243 to “facilitate and enhance the coordination and integration of community-based public transportation services for the benefit of persons with special needs,” is pleased to present this Recommendations Report to the State for consideration and implementation.

Recommendations – Long Term

The CTTF recommends that:

I. The State of Alaska enact a statute that establishes, enables and requires coordination of community-based transportation services that utilize state and federal grant funding. The statute would:

A. Establish a Governor-appointed Coordinated Transportation Commission, composed of a broad cross-section of agencies with responsibility for transportation, related human services, and advocates for special populations. The Commission would be established for a four-year period, with a review at that juncture to determine whether to continue or to sunset the Commission. This would be accompanied by a funding commitment that will not negatively impact the existing limited funding for public transportation activities throughout the state. The Commission would:

Oversee, implement, assess and periodically update the Coordinated Transportation Action Plan generated by the reconstituted CTTF, which brings to fruition the recommendations generated in this report...

Continue to identify, coordinate and leverage collective state agency resources so that they are most efficiently and effectively providing transportation services to persons with special needs

Continue to identify and address barriers to coordination in addition to those identified and addressed in this report as the coordinated system evolves and matures.

Advocate for a uniform budgeting structure that tracks and reports transportation expenditures on state clients.

State agency tracking and reporting on transportation expenditures is essential to effective, measurable coordination and leveraging state resources. Such data collected, updated, used and shared will meet federal accounting requirements, facilitate coordination and help best leverage state resources. State-funded expenditures on human service public transportation identified through this tracking mechanism can be used as match money to increase the availability of federal funding for transportation.

Develop and establish performance measures that identify entities that receive any type of public funding and measure coordination efforts through a statewide data base.

Performance measures need to specifically address and evaluate the effectiveness of coordinating and providing transportation services for people with special needs, which are measures that would look

quantifiably different and possibly in addition to standard transit measurements typically used today. Emerging legislation from Congress is establishing performance measurements as a new requirement of virtually every federally funded program. This recommendation also recognizes that measuring performance will be a new requirement for many agencies.

Articulate issues of policy and decision-making criteria associated with coordination plan implementation.

Develop a minimum taxicab standard for state-owned facilities such as airports and ferries to ensure those with disabilities are not overlooked.

State-owned ferry or airport terminals are a major destination for taxi businesses. To ensure those with disabilities are not overlooked, generate accessibility standards or regulations for taxicab businesses serving state-owned facilities, which includes a provision for permitted use of designated pickup and drop off zones. Alternate strategies include a recommendation for local government taxi codes that establish minimum capacity for accessible taxicabs and establish a basic standard in state law.

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Identify and address barriers to coordination associated with vehicle insurance, including cost, joint coverage, policy writing, and the sharing of publicly funded transportation vehicle assets.

Prepare an annual report to the State Legislature that summarizes the status of coordinated transportation within the state and make recommendations as appropriate.”