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<TARGET><BILL>SB 77</BILL><SUBJECT>SB  
77</SUBJECT><COMM>STRA27</COMM></TARGET>

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



## SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

### SPONSOR STATEMENT – SENATE BILL 77

**SB 77 – An Act making a special appropriation to the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to provide matching grant funds for expenses for certain locally and federally funded public transit projects; and providing for an effective date.**

Senate Bill 77 provides three million dollars in matching funds to support community transit projects. Alaska is one of only three states that does not provide operating support for public transit, shifting the entire burden to local governments and non-profits to partner with the federal government to provide these services. In too many cases, local transit agencies must turn down federal funding because they cannot meet a required matching component. Increasing fares and diminishing service routes have the greatest impact on Alaska's most vulnerable citizens, making it more difficult for seniors to get to health care providers, for workers to get to jobs, and for students of all ages to get to school.

The State of Alaska currently provides direct general fund matching assistance for other modes of transportation, including highways, aviation, and harbors. Annual federal funding available to Alaska for transit assistance varies from year-to-year, but averages nine million dollars or more. In many cases, Alaska is not capturing these federal funds due to insufficient matching funding. State funds to help meet the match requirement would put public and community transportation providers on a parity level with other federal and state "partnerships" that provide transportation for Alaskans.

Senate Bill 77 appropriates three million dollars to the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to award to community transit providers through a competitive grant process, with a required 50% match requirement (in kind or cash). Senate Bill 77 is a legislative priority for the Municipality of Anchorage, the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, the Alaska Mobility Coalition, the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education, and the Alaska Commission on Aging.

**CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 77(TRA)**

**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**

**TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION**

**BY THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

**Offered:**

**Referred:**

<b>Funding Information:</b>	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>3,000,000</b>
	<b>Other Funds</b>		<b>-0-</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>3,000,000</b>

**Sponsor(s): SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 **"An Act making a special appropriation to the Department of Transportation and**  
 2 **Public Facilities to provide matching grant funds for operating expenses for certain**  
 3 **locally and federally funded public transit projects; and providing for an effective date."**

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

5 \* **Section 1.** LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the legislature that the sum  
 6 appropriated in sec. 2 of this Act be allocated to achieve a statewide balance of projects in  
 7 both rural and urban areas.

8 \* **Sec. 2.** The sum of \$3,000,000 is appropriated from the general fund to the Department of  
 9 Transportation and Public Facilities to provide matching grant funds that do not exceed 50  
 10 percent of project costs for locally and federally funded public transit projects that are not  
 11 state projects, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012.

12 \* **Sec. 3.** This Act takes effect July 1, 2011.

## SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT First Committee of Referral

DATE: 2/2/11

FURTHER: Finance

Date of 5-Day Notice: \_\_\_\_\_  
(in accordance with Uniform Rule 23)

DATE TURNED  
IN TO OFFICE: 2/22/11

Transportation Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 77

### SB 77-APPROP.: PUBLIC TRANSIT PROJECTS

"An Act making a special appropriation to the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to provide matching grant funds for operating expenses for certain locally and federally funded public transit projects; and providing for an effective date."

and recommends:

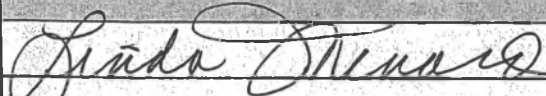
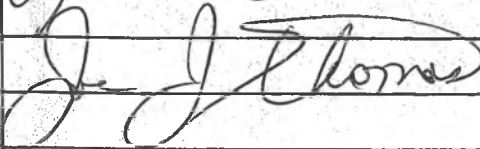
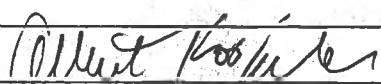
- be replaced with CS SB 77 (TRA) [ Same Title [ ] New Title  
 adopt previous CS \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_) [ ] Same Title [ ] New Title  
 attached amendment(s)  
 adopt \_\_\_\_\_ Letter of Intent  
 further referral to \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

Dept Abbr.	
ADM	LEG
CED	LAW
COR	LWF
CRT	MVA
EED	DNR
DEC	DPS
DFG	REV
GOV	DOT
DHS	UA

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S)				
Dept.	Fiscal	Indef.	Zero	FN #

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S)				
Dept.	Fiscal	Indef.	Zero	FN #

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	PRINTED LAST NAME	DO PASS	DO NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
	Menard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Thomas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CHAIR: 	Kookhest	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Nancy Barnes**

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**From:** Christensen, Sonia M (GOV) [sonia.christensen@alaska.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 8:47 AM  
**To:** Nancy Barnes  
**Subject:** SB 79 fiscal note

*NO Fiscal Note ON SB 77*

Hi Nancy,

For you information, AS 24.08.035 reads (a) Before a bill or resolution, except an appropriations bill, is reported from the committee of first referral, there shall be attached to the bill a fiscal note containing an estimate of the amount of the appropriation increase or decrease that would result from enactment of the bill for the current fiscal year and five succeeding fiscal years or, if the bill has no fiscal impact, a statement to that affect shall be attached.

Let me know if I can provide any more information. It was nice to chat with you this morning.

Thanks,

Sonia

**Sonia M. Christensen**

Deputy Legislative Director  
Office of Governor Sean Parnell  
907.465.3500  
907.209.0990 (cell)

**CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 77(TRA)**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

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# Senate Bill 77

## Senate Transportation Committee

February 22, 2011



# Senate Bill 77 - Overview

- SB77 Appropriates \$3 million to the Dept of Transportation and Public Facilities
- DOTPF will distribute the funds to local transportation providers through a competitive grant process
- Funds from SB77 must match Federal or Local funds



# “Public Transit, Less Service”

“In mid-2009, one-third of the Eagle River local bus service was cut. In March 2010, Routes 76 and 78, the last routes left to circulate around Eagle River, were eliminated to save \$478,000.”

“In their place, the People Mover began a service called Eagle River Connect -- a service people can call for pickup at their residence. It uses the AnchorRides buses, and it is open to the general public.”

“Nelson, who has some disabilities, likes the idea of it, but said to go from his North Birchwood home to a noon meeting at Denny's on Bragaw Street and DeBarr Road, he would have to leave the house at 7 a.m. ... Sometimes he can't even get on the Connect bus to go wherever he wants to go because space is limited.”

“What's needed? **More buses and more drivers,** he said.”

“In another cutback, the city plans at the end of the month to drop a second bus route to Mountain View, 45G, meant to relieve crowding on the regular Route 45 to Mountain View.”

Anchorage Daily News, 2.19.11



# Who Qualifies?

- Any local public transit provider can qualify, if they can meet the match requirement from Federal or other Local sources
  - > Municipalities
  - > Tribal organizations
  - > Non-profits
- State of Alaska projects do not qualify



# What Qualifies?

- All modes of local public transit can qualify
  - > Bus systems
  - > Van services
  - > Local ferry services



# Getting the most from Uncle Sam

- Alaska Mobility Coalition estimates that \$3 million in State matching funds could leverage \$12 million in additional Federal funding for public transit in Alaska



# Transit Fast Facts

- Every \$1 invested in public transit yields \$3.20 in business sales
- \$1 million invested in public transit creates and sustains 36 jobs
- Individuals who use public transit save \$9,000 a year on average
- One person switching to public transit can reduce daily carbon emissions by 20 pounds, or more than 4,800 pounds in a year



# Public Support for SB77

## ○ Dittman Survey of 2009:

- 94% of all Alaskans surveyed think public transit in their community is “Very Important or “Somewhat Important”
  - Only 3% think it is “Not important at all”
- 88% of all Alaskans surveyed support state matching funding for public transit when Federal funds are available
  - Only 9% oppose



# Statewide Support for SB77

- Alaska Municipal League
- Governor's Coordinated Transportation Task Force
- Alaska Mobility Coalition
- Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority
- Alaska Commission on Aging
- Alaska Center for Environment
- Municipality of Anchorage
- Matanuska-Susitna Borough
- Senior Groups around the State



# CS for SB77

- Removes “Operating” expense requirement
  - > Allows greatest flexibility in meeting community needs
  - > Majority of funding will go toward operations because of the availability of capital funds
- Requires match be not less than 1-to-1
- Inserts urban-rural balance intent language
  - > Allows rural communities, where the need is great, but ridership may be low, to be competitive for awards



# Let's Give Transit a GO

- Good for Business
- Good for Seniors
- Good for the Environment
- Good for Alaska



For questions, please contact:

Jeff Rogers  
Staff to Senator Johnny Ellis  
Jeff.Rogers@legis.state.ak.us  
465-4534





# **Governor's Coordinated Transportation Task Force**

## **Recommendations Report**

February 11, 2010



February 11, 2010

Governor Sean Parnell  
State of Alaska  
P.O. Box 110001  
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Dear Governor Parnell:

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.

Coordination is the efficient and effective use of transportation resources for getting people to important destinations, such as jobs and medical appointments. Coordination requires the active engagement and commitment of transit providers, human service agencies, private institutions, businesses, volunteers and political leaders to broaden transportation options by way of modes, routes, and providers and to ensure the connectivity between them.

This Recommendation Report presents a process to achieve a coordinated human service public transportation culture as well as a structure to sustain it, all for the purpose of ensuring that people with special needs in Alaska receive effective and efficient transportation services.

The CTTF members participating in this process endorse this approach, support the legislative changes it proposes, and commit to its implementation, as demonstrated by the member signatures included in Appendix A.

On behalf of the CTTF, I thank you for this opportunity to serve the State through this important collaborative effort.

Sincerely,

Jeff Ottesen, CTTF Chair  
Director, Division of Program Development  
Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

## Coordinated Transportation Task Force

---

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Representative of Senior Citizens  
Senior Citizens of Kodiak  
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**Coordinated Transportation Task Force Chair**

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Anchorage, AK 99503

**Cheryl A. Walsh**

Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Commissioner's Designee  
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Anchorage, AK 99508

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## Thank You

*The Governor's Coordinated Transportation Task Force would like to thank the many individuals who participated, provided information, listened, and made comments and suggestions throughout the CTTF's study, deliberations and recommendations development process. Some of these involved stakeholders who gave of their time and experience to inform this process include:*

Bethel Senior Center  
Jewellee Bell, Department of Administration  
Michael Black, Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development  
Jason Burke, State ADA Coordinator  
Tara Callear, Fairbanks Metropolitan Area Transportation System  
Kim Champney, REACH, Inc.  
John Cramer, Chief of Staff, Lieutenant Governor's Office  
Art Delane, Access Alaska  
James Farrington, Department of Education and Early Development  
Kathy Fitzgerald, Developmental Disabilities Committee  
Donna Gardino, Fairbanks Metropolitan Area Transportation System  
Edward Graff, Fairbanks North Star Borough  
Rebecca Greenberg, Palmer Senior Citizens Center  
William Herman, Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority  
Jody Karcz, People Mover  
John Kern, Capital Transit  
David Leone, Fairbanks North Star Borough  
David Levy, Alaska Mobility Coalition  
Lucas Lind, Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority  
Laura Manley, NAMI-Juneau  
Joan O'Keefe, Southeast Alaska Independent Living  
Participants in Alaska Community Transportation Conference, 2009  
Barb Singleton, Community Transportation Association of America  
Connie Sipe, Center for Community  
Rebecca Traylor, Fairbanks North Star Borough Public Transit Advisory Council; Access Alaska  
Melissa Wills-Markigraf, Salcha's Neighborly Organization  
Rick and Juanita Webb, Wallbusters  
Jerry L. Woods, Tanana Chiefs Conference Transportation

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## Executive Summary

With the signing of Administrative Order 243 on October 14, 2008 the Governor's Coordinated Transportation Task Force (CTTF) was officially assigned the responsibility to study and make recommendations on how the State can coordinate the provision of "cost-effective, community-based transportation services to persons with special needs." Administrative Order 252 extended the duration of the CTTF's work through April 2010.

The Community Transportation Association of America describes coordination as the efficient and effective use of transportation resources for getting people to important destinations, such as jobs and medical appointments. Coordination requires the active engagement and commitment of transit providers, human service agencies, private institutions, businesses, volunteers and political leaders to broaden transportation options by way of modes, routes, and providers and to ensure the connectivity between them.

Human service public transportation takes on its own unique meaning in Alaska. Alaska's population features one of the fastest growing senior populations in the country, as well as more veterans per capita than almost any other state. Furthermore, more than 150,000 people live off Alaska's limited state highway network. Clearly, effective and efficient human service public transportation services are challenging – and essential. This dynamic is further complicated when transportation in distant locations may require dog sled, boat or air taxi from which to access a commercial airplane or bus.

Dollars are short. An Alaska Municipal League study shows that even the most aggressive options to fund Alaska's transportation need are not adequate. The AML study did not address public transportation options.

Funding for human service public transportation services is limited and complex. A number of different federal funding sources come to Alaska state agencies and tribes to support transportation services for people with special needs. Each of these programs is accompanied with its different purposes and requirements, even though they may be serving similar sets of people. State agencies and tribes must work across systems in order to leverage those dollars for the maximum benefit.

Accessing Federal Transit Administration dollars that support public transportation options for people with special needs can be challenging for communities and particularly so in these tough economic times. Federal grants to support capital needs (vehicles, preventative maintenance and infrastructure) require a state or local match of 10-20 percent of the total allocation. Federal funding programs for operational support (maintenance, fuel, etc.) require a 50 percent match.

Communities seeking to match federal funds must reach into the same revenue sources that compete for education, police, fire, library and park services. In most communities, a ready source of revenue sufficient to meet the need and secure a match is difficult to come by, leaving operating funds for public and human service transportation systems in short supply.

To respond to the task to “coordinate and share transportation resources,” through “improved interagency planning at the state level,” the CTTF worked methodically through each of the duties it was assigned. During 2009 the CTTF held five (5) face-to-face meetings and eight (8) teleconference calls with webinars to pursue their study and generate this Recommendations Report. They shared and studied programmatic materials, toured human service public transportation facilities, met and talked with people with special needs and sought broader public input.

All CTTF meetings were open and provided opportunities for public comment. The Department of Transportation and Public Facilities maintained a website on the group’s behalf, and the Alaska Mobility Coalition provided links to the same. The website provided access to CTTF materials and products. Furthermore, the group presented and in a workshop format shared and collected input on the draft recommendations at the statewide Alaska Community Transportation Conference held in Anchorage on October 27-29, 2009. The draft report was released for official public comment on November 23, 2009.

This Recommendation Report presents a process to achieve a coordinated human service public transportation culture as well as a structure to sustain it, all for the purpose of ensuring that people with special needs in Alaska receive effective and efficient transportation services.

### **Recommendation – Short Term**

The CTTF has identified a body of work that still needs to be accomplished prior to the official adoption of the formal Recommendations outlined in this Report. In order to address that need, and to secure an infrastructure for “improved interagency planning at the state level” which can help deliver “cost-effective, community-based transportation services to persons with special needs,” the CTTF recommends that the Governor:

**Reconstitute the Coordinated Transportation Task Force** though July 31, 2011, tasking it with the specific responsibilities to:

1. Scope, size and if feasible, implement a needs assessment to most accurately quantify the transportation demand for people with special needs and inform coordination efforts.
2. Generate a draft Coordinated Transportation Action Plan which articulates a shared, statewide vision for human service public transportation and formulates the recommendations of this report into outcome-based strategies. This Action Plan will comprise the body of work to be undertaken by the Coordinated Transportation Commission described in the long-term Recommendation I.A below.
3. Prepare draft legislation that supports the coordinated infrastructure recommended within this Report to ensure the sustained coordination of the state’s resources.

The membership of the reconstituted CTTF is proposed to include those perspectives included on the existing group, with the addition of a three critically important perspectives for a total of 12 members. Specifically, the membership is proposed to include the following continuing members:

- The Commissioner of the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, or the commissioner's designee; that person will serve as chair;
- The Commissioner of Department of Health and Social Services, or the commissioner's designee;
- The Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, or the commissioner's designee
- The Commissioner of Military and Veteran's Affairs, or designee
- A representative who has expertise in the transportation needs of senior citizens and can offer that perspective;
- A representative who has expertise in the transportation needs of persons with disabilities and can offer that perspective;
- A representative who has expertise in the transportation needs of low-income individuals and can offer that perspective;
- A representative of municipalities and can offer that perspective;
- A representative of transportation providers that receive federal funding available to American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes.

Three additional members proposed for the Reconstituted CTTF support important populations and play key roles in coordination of interagency efforts to ensure the effective provision of transportation services for people with special needs. They include:

- The Commissioner of the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, or the commissioner's designee;
- The Commissioner of the Department of Education and Early Development, or the commissioner's designee;
- The chair of the Board of Trustees of the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, or the chair's designee;

The reconstituted CTTF will be responsible for presenting and delivering its products to the Governor on or before July 31, 2011.

### **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.

- 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.
- B. Authorize the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to manage the matching program for Federal Transit Administration and state transit funds according to criteria established by the Commission.
- C. Ensure local entities have statutory authority to prepare local Human service Public Transportation Coordinated Plans.
- D. Require applicants for federal or state transit funds to respond to priorities established in their local Human service Public Transportation Coordinated Plan.
- II. Make specific state funds available to support operational expenses for human service public transportation projects and providers (which in turn can be identified as match for additional federal funds) during its annual appropriation process. Part of the Commission's responsibility would be to establish programmatic areas and measureable outcomes for funding recipients in order to demonstrate and ensure the benefits of the investment in human service public transportation.
- III. Enrich and enhance the human service public transportation coordination planning processes by revising and updating coordination planning guidance documents and providing increased technical assistance. The support and guidance is intended to be directly responsive to helping identify local needs and build local awareness and capacity. The assistance program would:
- A. Generate increased awareness and understanding about the range of funding opportunities available to support human service public transportation coordinated planning;
  - B. Help foster the engagement of a variety of stakeholders and specifically local human service agencies in the planning process in order to best identify individualized local needs and how to meet them;
  - C. Outline and encourage meaningful and innovative coordination opportunities, including providing a list of best practices (i.e. coordination respective to winter maintenance, school districts, vehicle use and sharing vehicles, etc.);
  - D. Capitalize on existing data collection resources including the National Transit Database and the Alaska Public Transportation Management System database to expand inputs to support performance measure initiatives, identify coordination partners and leverage and resources;

- E. Communicate and support the utilization of mobility management practices (using a single point of contact to take calls on a local and regional level to coordinate the provision of services for the client) and securing mobility managers; and
  - F. Provide technical assistance for the coordination planning and funding application processes.
- IV. Conduct a statewide assessment of Alaskans with special needs to better understand the population's needs even while recognizing that the population and needs are changing. This data will serve as a tool for the Commission to direct and assess its Coordinated Transportation Action Plan, as well as inform and support local coordination planning efforts. The data requires ongoing attention and is recommended to be updated every four years. Through the process of conducting local coordinated planning, additional and increasingly specific local needs will be identified to further inform the assessment data.

### **Additional Operational Level Recommendations**

The CTTF also generated a set of "operational-level recommendations" in response to their task to develop mechanisms and incentives to support coordinated efforts and effectively meet needs. The CTTF will incorporate the study, development and public input of those recommendations into the Coordinated Transportation Action Plan.

The CTTF Recommendations acknowledge and work to address the needs and influences of the various programmatic levels—federal, tribal, state and local—that influence and support human service public transportation efforts. They present a strategy to address what we know, seek out what we don't know, track cost and coordination efforts to ensure effective outcomes, and generate an infrastructure that supports coordination. Implementing these recommendations will grow and sustain a culture designed to efficiently and effectively provide transportation services for people with special needs.

## Introduction

Coordination is the efficient and effective use of transportation resources for getting people to important destinations, such as jobs and medical appointments. Coordination means working with transit providers, human service agencies, private institutions, businesses, volunteers and political leaders to broaden transportation options by way of modes, routes, and providers. Coordination ensures the connectivity between these options.

With the signing of Administrative Order 243 on October 14, 2008 (Appendix B), the Governor's Coordinated Transportation Task Force (CTTF) was officially assigned the responsibility to study and make recommendations on how the State can coordinate the provision of "cost-effective, community-based transportation services to persons with special needs." Administrative Order 252 extended the duration of the CTTF's work through April 2010.

Building upon existing experience and successes throughout state agencies, private entities and Alaska Tribes, the CTTF is to further the coordination and sharing of transportation resources through "improved interagency planning at the state level." Specifically, the Administrative Order asks the CTTF to "maximize the availability of community-based transportation services, the sharing of transportation resources among government and private entities providing those services, and the coordination among providers of those services."

Nine representatives and three ex officios were specifically identified in the Administrative Order and appointed by the Governor as participants in this process. The Order and the group recognized the important roles of other entities and stakeholders who provide or are responsible for the provision of transportation services, and that an effective and comprehensively coordinated system relies equally on their participation and experience. Human service public transportation features the coordination of public transportation systems with human service agencies and providers responsible for making transportation resources available to their clients. All of these entities and more must have input to the CTTF's deliberations. They are integral to the actual coordination planning and service delivery that is provided to people with special needs.

During 2009 the CTTF held five (5) face-to-face meetings and eight (8) teleconference calls with webinars to pursue their study and generate this Recommendations Report. All meetings were open and provided opportunities for public comment. They shared and studied programmatic materials, toured human service public transportation facilities, met and talked with people with special needs and sought broader public input.

***Coordination is***  
the efficient and effective  
use of transportation  
resources for getting people  
to important destinations,  
such as jobs and medical  
appointments.

***Coordination means***  
working with transit  
providers, human service  
agencies, private  
institutions, businesses,  
volunteers and political  
leaders to broaden  
transportation options by  
way of modes, routes, and  
providers.

***Coordination ensures***  
the connectivity between  
these options.

***Administrative Order 243 identifies persons with special needs as***

- Senior citizens.
- Persons with disabilities (including physical disabilities, developmental disabilities, mental illness, traumatic brain injury, dementia, substance abuse problems).
- Preschool children in a Head Start program.
- Public school students.
- Low income individuals, including those receiving public assistance or Medicaid.
- Others persons with special needs.

The Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) maintained a website on the group's behalf, and the Alaska Mobility Coalition (AMC) provided links to the same. The website provided access to CTF materials and products. Furthermore, the group presented and in a workshop format shared and collected input on the draft recommendations at the statewide Alaska Community Transportation Conference held in Anchorage on October 27-29, 2009. The draft report was released for official public comment on November 23, 2009.

The Administrative Order is specific about the audience the CTF work is intended to support. Persons with special needs as described by the Administrative Order include people with physical, developmental or mental disabilities, senior citizens,

preschool children in a Head Start program, public school students, low income individuals, and others without access to existing, workable transportation opportunities.

Much research and work has been done on a national level and in other states to help guide the CTF work and recommendations. Studies by the Transit Cooperative Research Program, National Cooperative Highway Research Program, U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Transit Administration, and best practices gleaned from other states (specifically the state of Washington) informed the CTF process and product. Data provided by existing state planning documents for special populations, including the *Alaska Transportation Finance Study Final Report* (January, 2009), *Alaska State Plan for Senior Services, 2008-2011*, and the *2007 Annual Disability Report: Alaska*, illuminated the scope of the populations' needs and underscored the importance of a coordinated system to meet that collective need.

Furthermore, the Region X United We Ride Ambassador from the Community Transit Association of America participated in the process, directed the group to additional resources, and provided consulting services.



***Mobility is a fundamental part of our daily lives.***

The CTF's process was a deliberate step-by-step response to the following duties assigned to the group in the Administrative Order:

### **Duty 1**

**Identify state, federal, and local government agencies and private entities that administer or support community-based transportation services for persons with special needs.**

This duty the CTF addressed at two levels: 1) by utilizing the Alaska Public Transit Management System (APTMS) as a tool to inventory transportation providers, their funding sources, and their resources, and 2) by starting the process to identify and document state and federal agency resources that are available in Alaska to support community-based transportation activities. The APTMS will continue as an ongoing process to collect data in a manner that can inform and support local coordination efforts; the agency resources as collected to date are provided in Appendix C and underscore the need for increased tracking and coordination of state agency resources.

### **Duty 2**

**Identify barriers to coordination at the state, federal, and local levels for those services.**

The CTF identified and articulated barriers to coordination and used them as a starting point from which to generate the **CTF Recommendations**.



*CTF studies a range of resource materials while meeting in Juneau.*

### **Duty 3**

**Recommend the removal of barriers that prevent coordination of those services.**

**CTF Recommendations** are presented at two levels. A set of "policy-level" recommendations are proposed to generate a statewide infrastructure that supports a culture of coordination and accountability. The second set of recommendations are practical considerations, presented as draft "operational-level" recommendations that affect accessibility for persons with special needs, and are maintained for broad stakeholder input and further development at a later date. These draft operational recommendations are provided in Appendix D.

### **Duty 4**

**Propose changes in statutes or regulations that would facilitate coordination of those services.**

Proposed changes in statutes or regulations are included in the policy-level **CTTF Recommendations**.

### **Duty 5**

**Develop mechanisms and incentives to governmental agencies to coordinate those services through means including collaborative vehicle use, centralized dispatch services, joint or bulk purchase of fuel and vehicles, multi-purpose transportation voucher programs, centralized maintenance, and joint insurance.**

Mechanisms and incentives to coordinate services are included in the CTTF draft operational-level recommendations in Appendix D.

### **Duty 6**

**Identify available financing for accessible services in communities in this state that have limited or no publicly financed transportation services to serve persons with special needs.**

A list of available and proposed ideas for financing accessible services in Alaska communities was generated by the CTTF with a corresponding action plan to communicate that availability through an enhanced local human service public transportation coordination planning process. A plan for making more resources available to communities is also proposed. This process and proposal is included in the **CTTF Recommendations**.

### **Duty 7**

**Develop a mechanism to ensure that services for persons with special needs in this state are coordinated and services are evaluated.**

Mechanisms for tracking and evaluating expenditures and coordination are proposed in the **CTTF Recommendations**, along with a statewide needs assessment to provide a meaningful benchmark from which to generate a program to measure effectiveness.

This Recommendations Report is the result of the CTTF's process to address the duties as assigned and to create an infrastructure to better serve persons with special needs through effective coordination and the leveraging of existing resources. The CTTF points out that coordination is a process that occurs at many levels – federal, tribal, state and local. Coordination does not result just because recommendations



are made; rather, coordination results from a cultural change among many organizations that act on their commitment to deliver effective and efficient services to people with special needs.

The proposed Coordinated Transportation Action Plan provides the state the opportunity to turn these important recommendations into a deliberate and measureable action strategy.

## Transportation for Persons with Special Needs

Mobility is a fundamental part of our daily lives. Our access to medical care, work, school, recreation, cultural events, family functions and shopping influences our quality of life. When we easily get where we need to go, we take it for granted. When weather threatens our visibility and safety, our economic situation demands frugality, or our physical capacity or geographic location limits our access to services, staples and social activities, mobility is essential. As resources that meet our daily needs become less accessible, the relevance of mobility to our quality life becomes increasingly apparent.

<b>U.S. Census Bureau data identifies some Alaskans with special needs</b>							
	Alaska census 2008	Poverty Status - adults	Poverty Status - children under 18	Seniors over 60	Civilians with a disability	Veterans with a disability	Homes on public assistance
<b>Total</b>	686,293	37,379	19,854	77,608	78,893	17,223	44,907
*Statistics to identify the exact numbers of this population are not possible. These numbers may reflect duplicate counts, but they are also probably not comprehensive.							

**Table 1: Persons with special needs by populations**  
 U.S. Census Bureau 2008  
[www.census.gov/acs](http://www.census.gov/acs)

### Prevalence of persons with special needs and their unique environment

Alaska's senior population is growing faster than almost any other state in the nation. Alaska's total population of 686,293 (2008) features the highest proportion of baby boomers (32 percent) in the nation. By 2030, the *Alaska State Plan for Senior Services 2008-2011* projects that the proportion of seniors age 65 and over will double, comprising 13 percent of Alaska's population. Seniors age 60 and over will make up 17 percent of Alaska's total population. The number of seniors 85 and over is expected to triple during the next 25 years, increasing the number of Alaskans with age related medical conditions such as decreased vision, hearing and memory and cognitive conditions which can affect our ability to get places and our transportation options.

In addition to a growing senior population, the U. S. Census Bureau 2008 *American Community Survey* reports a variety of statistics about people with special needs. Table 1 presents these numbers and more. While the numbers do not provide a conclusive count, and the potential for duplicate numbers between them exists, the prevalence of persons with special needs is illuminated, and the implied need for transportation services significant. The figure does not take into account Alaska's 132,255 public school students or its 10,831 children eligible for Head Start programs.

In the future, the state will also need to pay increased attention to the needs of individuals with low literacy or limited English proficiency. The Federal Transit Administration has issued guidance that outlines expectations of fund recipients to improve

**Alaska's senior population is growing faster than almost any other state in the nation.**

access to services for these populations in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act.

Furthermore, 22 percent of Alaska's population—more than 150,000 people—live off the state's highway system (Greg Williams, Department of Labor and Workforce Development, November 3, 2009). Living in distant locations may be a lifestyle choice; it may also be a necessity. Travel in and out of such areas can be difficult, expensive and hazardous. The *2008 Geographic Differential Study* indicates that "since 1985, communities outside Alaska's Railbelt and off the Alaska road system have seen greater increases in living costs relative to Anchorage," complicating their ability to access alternative modes to get where they need to go. Access to hospitals or major urban centers may be only by air, boat, snow machine, dog sled or some combination thereof.

***Alaska's predominantly rural environment does not make human service public transportation less necessary; rather, it makes human service public transportation challenging and absolutely essential to Alaskans' quality of life.***

Stories about transportation challenges abound. An individual Alaskan may have 4-6 legs to a trip by the time he or she leaves their own home and arrives at another important destination within the state. Any such trip may feature any combination and series of travel by dog sled, snow machine, truck, ferry, bus, taxi and airplane. If any one of those legs aren't coordinated or break down, an individual can easily find him or herself stranded.

***22 percent of Alaska's total population, more than 150,000 Alaskans, live off the Alaska highway system.***



Map 1: Alaska State Highway System

Map 1 depicts Alaska's state highway system. Clearly transportation options and the connectivity between them is a significant issue for Alaskans. Transportation must support rural lifestyles in distant locations, challenging weather, a dependence on a variety of modes, and a high cost to secure it.

Alaska's predominantly rural environment does not make human service public transportation less necessary; rather, it makes human service transportation challenging and absolutely essential to Alaskans' quality of life.



*CTTF learns about cold weather testing facility for vehicle emissions performance in Fairbanks.*

### **Financing human service public transportation services**

People with special needs rely on public transportation to get them where they need to go. They also rely on services made available through human service agencies designed to support special populations, such as Alaska's Department of Health and Social Services or Vocational Rehabilitation.

At the federal level, approximately 70 different funding programs are identified that might support this target population in some fashion, including transportation services and benefits. For example, the Federal Transit Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Labor are four of several agencies that provide funding for programs to help persons with special needs have access to their jobs, medical care, and/or other activities.

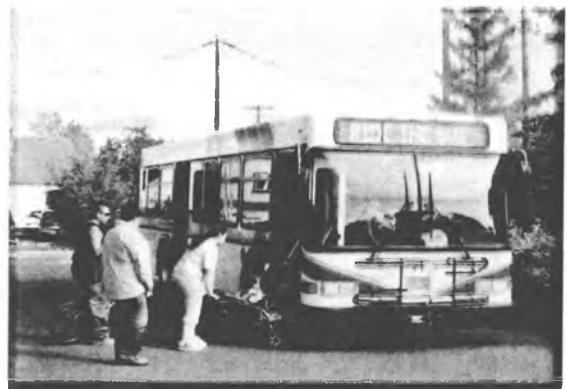
When funding from those programs comes to Alaska state agencies, that funding brings with it specific requirements, guidelines and restrictions. Those programs provide important support to the individuals for whom they are intended, but the nature of the funding process and program requirements may unintentionally prohibit their most effective use. Coordination provides the opportunity to eliminate potential duplication, identify gaps, and leverage collective resources. Graph 1 on the next page illustrates the dynamic.

Efforts at the national level to stimulate the coordination of federal agency resources are significant. In recognition of the need to enhance coordination of important human service transportation resources, President Bush issued an Executive Order on Human service

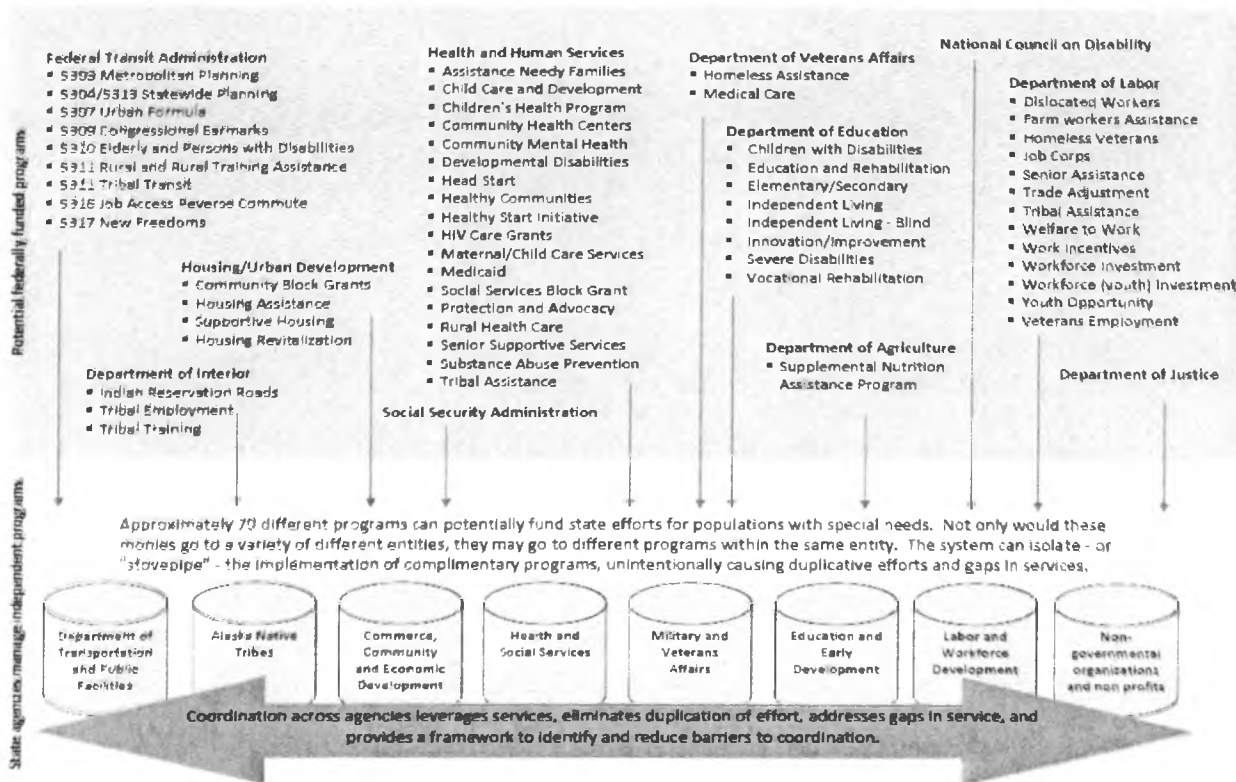
Transportation (#13330) in February 2004, directing eleven Federal departments and agencies to "work together to ensure that transportation services are seamless, comprehensive and accessible."

The Federal Interagency Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility (CCAM) membership includes representatives from the:

- Department of Transportation
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Department of Education
- Department of Labor
- Department of Veterans Affairs
- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Department of the Interior
- Department of Justice
- Social Security Administration
- National Council on Disability



CCAM promotes and provides resources for coordination in a variety of ways. Technical assistance, coordination grants, guidance documents and a variety of reports are among the resources CCAM makes available through programs it oversees. CCAM models an interagency approach to



Graph 1: Illustration (only) of how coordination can leverage multiple related efforts

coordination and the leveraging of human service public transportation resources, and it provides guidance for states on how to do the same.

Clearly, Alaska recognizes the need and value of coordination. Alaska's Administrative Order 243 points out that "the provision and integration of cost-effective, community-based transportation services to persons with special needs is an important government function." To ensure this function is effectively carried out, coordination efforts must accommodate federal, tribal, state and local considerations.

Even while the number of programs that can potentially fund human service public transportation appears long, the total availability of funds to support these programs does not meet the range of needs.

The draft Surface Transportation Authorization Act of 2009, introduced to the House of Representatives by Representative Oberstar, presents a sobering picture of under-investment in the country's transportation system. This under-investment has resulted in deteriorating facilities, negative environmental impacts, and limited transportation choices. In January 2009, the Alaska Municipal League (AML) produced the *Alaska Transportation Finance Study*, an assessment of the current finance trends, challenges and options to meet Alaska's transportation funding needs. The report verifies that Alaska's experience is consistent with the national trend. Furthermore, the report points out that the under-investment may more severely impact Alaska because of Alaska's dependence on resource extraction industries which are transportation dependent. It also points out that Alaska's distant communities, harsher environment and less mature roadway network may amplify the effects of under-investment.

While the AML report suggested a number of options to address the funding issue, even the most aggressive option proposed did not meet the shortfall or existing transportation need. The report did not address how to meet the transit need at all.

The lack of specific state funding for operating transit systems is an exacerbating factor for Alaska. A 2008 report from the U.S. Department of Transportation, the *Status of the Nation's Highways, Bridges, and Transit: 2008 Conditions and Performance*, illustrates the share of federal, state, local and system-generated funds for public transportation on a national level. Graph 2 presents data from that report. On a national level, an average of state funds support approximately 20 percent of the total public transit resource for operating and capital expenditures.



Graph 2: Total funding on a national level.  
<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/policy/2008cpr/es.htm#c6b>

Operating expenses are those required to operate a service. They include payroll, maintenance, fuel and more. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) provides limited operating funds to applicants serving rural areas, but requires a 50 percent match of local or state funds to access the federal grant. Capital expenses include physical facilities and rolling stock. They are the tangible assets of a transportation service. FTA's grant programs are structured by Congress to primarily fund capital projects at a more favorable grant ratio of 80 percent federal to 20 percent local or state match.

<p><b>Operating expenses:</b></p> <p><i>payroll, maintenance, fuel required to operate a service</i></p>	<p><b>Capital expenses:</b></p> <p><i>physical facilities and rolling stock - tangible assets</i></p>
<p><b><i>Securing adequate resources in Alaska for operational expenses is a significant challenge.</i></b></p>	

Because local match requirements for operating funds are higher than they are for capital, most states fill this gap by providing some state funding for operating transit systems, and are able to fully access their federal funding by doing so. Alaska, however, provides no specific funding for operating expenses. The ability to secure federal funding for operating expenses relies solely on individual communities and non-profit entities who work to secure it. Therefore, funding for public transportation competes for the same sources of revenues (property and other local taxes) that cities and boroughs must use to pay for their general purpose government expenses, such as education, libraries, parks, police, fire, etc.

Within Alaska, the level of support from local governments for public transportation varies considerably. For example, Ketchikan Gateway Borough provides \$279 thousand, while Juneau allocates \$3.3 million annually for transit support. Sometimes local non-profits provide funds, which count as match, for Alaska rural transportation systems to help maintain basic levels of service in their communities. However, given the match requirements, some communities are unable or unwilling to budget sufficient local funding to make full use of the federal transit funds potentially available to them.

Local community investment in public transportation varies across the state. With Ketchikan Gateway Borough and Juneau, five rural transit systems receive funds or in-kind contributions. Additionally, Anchorage received \$30.2 million in funding for transit, and paratransit, which included \$16.8 million in local funds and \$5 million collected in fares (NTD, 2007). Fairbanks received \$3.7 million in funding for transit and paratransit, including \$2.7 million in local funds and \$242 thousand in fares (NTD, 2007).

In the state's annual Mental Health budget, \$300 thousand capital funding from the Alaska Mental Health Trust is matched by \$800 thousand from the General Fund. The Governor's FY2011 budget includes \$82 million from the General Fund for Marine Highway

***The ability to access, use and leverage federal funds to provide transportation services to people with special needs depends upon the willingness of the state and communities to match them.***

operations, in addition to \$54 million in projected system-generated revenue. The state also budgets \$8 million or more in General Fund capital dollars to match federal capital for vessel and terminal overhaul and rehabilitation. The Marine Highway system is considered an additional public transit system, as it is the single transportation link to medical, shopping, cultural and social activities for many coastal community residents.

While still in draft form, the new federal transportation bill aims to transform the existing system to one that, among other objectives, provides for transportation choices, limits the adverse effects of transportation on the environment, promotes public health and the livability of communities, and demands accountability and performance metrics. The new bill might bring more federal transit funds to Alaska, and possibly fewer federal highway funds. The ability to access, use and leverage these funds to provide transportation services to people with special needs depends upon the willingness of the state and communities to match them.

While securing adequate resources in Alaska for transit operational expenditures may continue to be a significant challenge in these difficult economic times, other rural states such as North and South Dakota, Montana and Maine have made policy decisions to devote some state funding sources to public transportation. Creative solutions such as those suggested by the Alaska Municipal League to establish an Alaska Trust Fund for Transportation should be seriously considered.

Another important influence and opportunity for coordination of public transportation resources in Alaska involves Alaska Tribes. In 2009, five tribes received \$892 thousand in Federal Transit Administration 5311 Tribal Transit Program Funds. The funding is not enough to adequately meet the adequate

infrastructure and operating costs of transit in tribal communities, which include obtaining and maintaining equipment, securing maintenance facilities and services, providing for adequate road conditions and managing high fuel costs. The Indian Reservation Roads Program is providing over \$46 million in funds to 229 Alaska Tribes, offering much-needed resources for roads, bridges,



*Residents from the Fairbanks area and beyond address CTF about their human service public transportation needs.*

transportation facilities and maintenance. Tribal initiatives to coordinate and leverage their resources with other transit and human service needs and efforts are underway, and important opportunities are still to be explored.

Alaska state agencies have a variety of responsibilities for securing, ensuring and funding human service transportation. In most cases, state agency funds come from federal agency sources—some to similar and some to different populations—but most are intended for service delivery on the local level to help clients get to where they need to go. In addition to FTA grant programs that fund transportation services for seniors, inter-city routes, people with disabilities, low income populations, tribes and rural areas, other agencies provide resources as well. Health and Human Services provides benefits for low income individuals to support a range of activities to promote self reliance, including some transportation costs for individuals in low income families for medical services, school and work. Medicaid plays a significant role in funding transportation for people with special needs, accounting for \$5.2 million in Alaska's expenditures for this population. Veterans Services, Administration on Aging, and others play an important role in supporting the network of funding streams and services available to people with special needs.

Appendix C presents a list of preliminary data identifying state agency budget and funding related to human service transportation. This is not a complete list of agencies or funding streams, but it is indicative of the variety of programs and funding sources at work in Alaska. With imminent potential health care reform initiatives advocating for increased out-patient services, the need for effective transportation options will also increase. The list of programs underscores the need to identify, coordinate, and leverage that variety of resources to most effectively serve Alaskans with special needs.

The numbers speak pointedly to the wisdom of ensuring human service public transportation resources are managed and coordinated. While a general understanding of the transportation needs of these populations at the local level may be identified and acknowledged in local planning efforts, a comprehensive, specific and quantitative understanding of the transportation needs throughout Alaska is not available.

### **Transportation as a priority for human service organizations**

Many Alaskan agencies and organizations recognize and work to address transportation issues for people with special needs. A few documented efforts include:

- The *Alaska State Plan for Senior Services 2008-2011* outlines goals to ensure seniors have services with which they are satisfied, that are culturally relevant, that provide the opportunity to receive services to promote and enhance their physical, mental, spiritual and emotional health, and enable seniors to age in place. ***Efficient and effective transportation services support all of these goals.***



- The State Independent Living Council (SILC) works to maximize opportunities and to incorporate people with disabilities into all walks of life by empowering them through individual and systems change. SILC has specifically identified **improving transportation options for persons with disabilities** as an action goal.

***Generating meaningful transportation options is an important objective of many Alaskan organizations.***

- The Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority (Trust) administers the Mental Health Trust to improve the lives of beneficiaries. Among other responsibilities, the Trust seeks to coordinate with state agencies about programs and services that affect beneficiaries. ***Transportation is key to beneficiaries' access to work, services and other life activities.***
- *Healthy Alaska 2010* outlines the state's plan for achieving healthy Alaskans and healthy communities. One of the goals in that plan is to improve access to comprehensive and quality health care services, and one of the indicators that access is being improved is by ***providing for more efficient and effective transportation to services.***
- The *Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education 2006-2011 State Plan* identifies "transportation as a priority for human services" and initiates an objective specifically to **improve and expand transportation options** through collaboration with the Alaska Mobility Coalition, improvement and expansion of private and public transportation services, by providing training for transportation providers, consumers and employers.

Other examples exist. The obvious conclusion is that initiatives are underway individually and collectively to address adequately providing transportation services for people with special needs. The CTF provides a venue for multi-stakeholder efforts to coalesce around this single important issue; the **CTTF Recommendations** propose a structure to meet and sustain it.

The ability to identify and support people's unique needs occurs meaningfully and practically at the local level. The best local systems are generated when strong, committed local leadership exists. Local populations, providers, resources and conditions make each effort at community-based transportation planning, coordination and service delivery system unique. Some communities have more and some communities have less capacity to identify opportunities and resources, coordinate local partners and stakeholders, and secure and share local resources. Some communities are distant; some serve as hubs; some have more and some less resources and information available to them.

Accommodating the unique needs of any community within the context of a coordination structure is important. Generating an infrastructure that provides the means, capacity and initiative to coordinate the complex variety of federal, tribal state and local resources in a sustainable way is essential to effective service delivery.

***Generating an infrastructure that provides the means, capacity and initiative to coordinate resources in a sustainable way is essential to effective service delivery.***

## **Barriers to Coordination**

Federal, tribal, state and local influences on coordination are inextricably linked. Barriers to coordination can touch many or all parts of that spectrum.

The CTTF identified a series of barriers to coordination and the effective delivery of transportation services to people with special needs. Those barriers are summarized below.

### **Funding**

There is an inherent challenge in coordinating funds available to state agencies through different federal programs which have designated purposes. State agencies don't necessarily budget or track human service public transportation expenditures in similar ways, making a working understanding of the total funding picture challenging at best. Furthermore, there is no regularly programmed state funding for public transportation in Alaska; federal programs require local match, putting the match burden entirely on local communities that often lack the resources to meet it.

### **Understanding unmet need**

There is no quantifiable measurement of unmet need statewide. Individuals, entities and organizations identify transportation as a need for their clients, and statistics are kept regarding those individuals who are being served. However, a calibration of those needs among all populations of persons with special needs in a quantifiable form with geographical detail is not available.

### **Effort of Coordination**

The effort of coordination on the local level, where the physical coordination occurs by way of service delivery, is time consuming and can be daunting. Local leaders must work to identify needs, engage stakeholders, solicit and provide match, and pursue coordination opportunities that may be superseded or influenced by different federal and state program requirements and limitations. Furthermore, there is typically no clearly identified local lead and resource to champion coordination efforts, which reduces its likelihood of success.

### **Local investment**

Although many non-profits, businesses and concerned agencies can demonstrate the need for transportation for their clients and customers, committed and reliable financial support from the local community or local government is necessary for transit systems to maintain operations. Many local governments are just not motivated or able to make that commitment.

### **Public Awareness**

On many levels, effectively coordinating community-based services relies on increased public awareness. Understanding and acknowledging the basic human need for transportation to

access essential services and care as well as to age at home illuminates the value for transportation options. Increased awareness about funding opportunities and processes enables more entities to access them. Communities who understand the range of services and resources available within their own areas are better positioned to partner and leverage them.

## Understanding the relevance

The concept of public transportation is fairly new to some Alaska's smaller communities. When you have never had public transportation, it is difficult to measure its value. However, small towns and distant communities whose residents must travel significant distances via a variety of modes to access healthcare, education and other services, are increasingly recognizing transportation as a significant issue to address.

In areas throughout the state where public transportation is an option, it is highly regarded and considered an important resource (AMC Perception Study, Dittman Research Corporation, 2009).



*CTTF tours People Mover's Transportation Skills Assessment and Travel Training facility during October's Alaska Community Transportation*

## Human Service Eligibility Processes

Different funding sources support transportation services for clients who meet prescribed eligibility criteria. Medicaid, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, various State and Federal grants, and Veterans Services provide benefits for transportation services, but vary in their eligibility requirements and processes. Coordination between agencies with different eligibility requirements, standardized payment and processing mechanisms, or consistent eligibility verification processes among transportation service providers could prove helpful to streamlining access to services for people with special needs.

## Sustaining Operations

A number of operational activities influence cost, safety and the life of the vehicle investment. Issues associated with vehicle maintenance, funding for operations, high fuel costs, scheduling and dispatching, and driver training and retention all pose opportunities for efficiency and consistency through coordination of resources.



*Members of the CTTF test the mock pedestrian facilities at People Mover's Transportation Skills Assessment and Travel Training*

## **Taxi Accessibility**

Taxis appear to be an obvious choice to provide individual and incidental transportation services to people with special needs, but cost and accessibility is frequently an issue. Finding a way to make effective and accessible taxi service available would be a helpful solution for many Alaskans.

## **Access to the System**

For people with special needs, access to facilities and services impacts their ability to get to transportation resources. Alaska features distant communities and few roads. Many individuals must travel from distant communities to major hubs to meet their respective needs. That travel may be by ATV, snow machine or boat as much as it may be by airplane, automobile or bus. Extreme weather conditions and temperatures limit walking, waiting outside, and access to sidewalks, driveways, bus shelters and pull-outs. In winter, snow berms or ice build-up can prevent people from getting to bus stops. Facility design and maintenance can play a key role in accessibility to transportation services.

## **Rail**

While not a focus area for the CTTF, the Alaska Railroad Corporation is a federally -funded passenger rail service that is not integrated into the state's provision of public transportation services. With increased study and coordination among entities and modes, rail transportation presents opportunities for increased transportation options for people with special needs.

## **Coordination is a Process**

The **CTTF Recommendations** acknowledge and work to address the needs and influences of the various programmatic levels—federal, tribal, state and local—that affect coordination of human service public transportation programs and resources. They present a strategy to address what we know, seek out what we don't know, track cost and coordination efforts, and generate an infrastructure that supports coordination. They are not a final solution; they are important strategies to engage all stakeholders with responsibilities for transportation services and affect a system which stimulates coordination. Implementing these recommendations will grow and sustain a culture designed to efficiently and effectively provide transportation services for people with special needs.



*Participants at the Alaska Transportation Community Conference 2009 provide input to CTTF recommendations during roundtable discussions.*

## Value of Coordination

Coordination adds value in a number of ways that influence both quality of life and the effective utilization of limited resources. Coordination offers the ability to:

### **Provide effective and efficient services to persons with special needs to ensure their highest quality of life**

Mobility plays a key role in everyone's life. Mobility is more challenging for persons with special needs. The CTTF's responsibility to make recommendations on how the State can best "provide cost-effective, community-based transportation services to persons with special needs" is a foundational service that supports the goals and objectives of many initiatives that agencies and non-profits are undertaking to support and enhance the quality of life for persons with special needs.



*Bethel seniors rely on local bus service to participate in local activities and secure supplies.*

### **Leverage resources**

Coordination provides the opportunity to maximize the use of existing facilities and vehicles, thereby providing more options for customers, maximizing the state's collective resources, and creating opportunities to identify and capitalize on expenditures which can serve as potential match to bring additional funds into a community. According to a National Governor's Association report:

Greater coordination between public transit and ancillary transportation programs frees up sufficient resources to substantially improve overall public transportation service delivery. In a comparison of the cost and efficiency of transportation services before and after coordination, a study by the Community Transportation Association of America presented case studies from five states that showed average reductions of 50 percent in passenger-trip costs and 28 percent in vehicle-hour costs after coordination activities were implemented.

***Coordination "frees up sufficient resources to substantially improve overall public transportation service delivery."***

***(NGA 2002)***

**Focus on core missions**

Coordination of transportation providers and related service entities provides each the opportunity to focus on their specific missions – whether that mission be serving people with special needs in specific ways or by providing transportation services – and eliminate the distraction and expenditure of trying to provide support outside the core mission.

**Eliminate duplicative processes**

Coordination provides the opportunity to streamline procurement and disposal processes, leaving the work to folks intimately familiar with procurement and disposal processes and requirements.

**Capitalize on professional expertise and safe practices**

Utilizing the services of entities established to provide transportation secures the safety and professionalism that comes with industry standards, maintenance processes, and training.

**Plan effectively**

Coordination provides a community the ability to evaluate its effectiveness in serving people with special needs, match those with existing resources and gaps, and generate a baseline from which to plan services and support so that services are more effectively provided.

***Coordination results from a cultural change among many organizations that act on their commitment to deliver effective and efficient services to people with special needs.***

**Create visibility and enhanced identity for vital transportation services.**

Coordination takes advantage of economies of scale and can foster much higher visibility and political acceptability of cost effective nature of ride sharing. When services are fragmented with many different providers “owning” one piece of the public transportation puzzle, it is easy for those needing transportation to feel marginalized and recognize that they are not getting priority attention.



***CTTF tours  
Capital Transit  
in Juneau.***

## CTTF Recommendations

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The **Governor's Coordinated Transportation Task Force Recommendations** provide a framework for the State of Alaska to more effectively serve people with special needs by generating and sustaining a coordinated transportation environment. This Recommendation Report presents a process to achieve a coordinated human service public transportation culture as well as a structure to sustain it, all for the purpose of ensuring that people with special needs in Alaska receive effective and efficient transportation services.

### **Recommendation - Short Term**

The CTTF has identified a body of work that still needs to be accomplished prior to the official adoption of the formal Recommendations outlined in this Report. In order to address that need, and to secure an infrastructure for "improved interagency planning at the state level" which can help deliver "cost-effective, community-based transportation services to persons with special needs," the CTTF recommends that the Governor:

**Reconstitute the Coordinated Transportation Task Force** though July 31, 2011, tasking it with the specific responsibilities to:

1. Scope, size and if feasible, implement a needs assessment to most accurately quantify the transportation demand for people with special needs and inform coordination efforts.
2. Generate a draft Coordinated Transportation Action Plan which articulates a shared, statewide vision for human service public transportation and formulates the recommendations of this report into outcome-based strategies. This Action Plan will comprise the body of work to be undertaken by the Coordinated Transportation Commission described in the long-term Recommendation I.A below.
3. Prepare draft legislation that supports the coordinated infrastructure recommended within this Report to ensure the sustained coordination of the state's resources.

The membership of the reconstituted CTTF is proposed to include those perspectives included on the existing group, with the addition of a three critically important perspectives for a total of 12 members. Specifically, the membership is proposed to include the following continuing members:

- The Commissioner of the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, or the commissioner's designee; that person will serve as chair;
- The Commissioner of Department of Health and Social Services, or the commissioner's designee;
- The Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, or the commissioner's designee

- The Commissioner of Military and Veteran's Affairs, or designee
- A representative who has expertise in the transportation needs of senior citizens and can offer that perspective;
- A representative who has expertise in the transportation needs of persons with disabilities and can offer that perspective;
- A representative who has expertise in the transportation needs of low-income individuals and can offer that perspective;
- A representative of municipalities and can offer that perspective;
- A representative of transportation providers that receive federal funding available to American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes.

Three additional members proposed for the Reconstituted CTTF support important populations and play key roles in coordination of interagency efforts to ensure the effective provision of transportation services for people with special needs. They include:

- The Commissioner of the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, or the commissioner's designee;
- The Commissioner of the Department of Education and Early Development, or the commissioner's designee;
- The chair of the Board of Trustees of the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, or the chair's designee;

The reconstituted CTTF will be responsible for presenting and delivering its products to the Governor on or before July 31, 2011.

## **Recommendations - Long Term**

### **Recommendation I**

Coordination is an ongoing process and commitment, and the Coordinated Transportation Action Plan produced by the reconstituted CTTF will articulate strategic activities which will require action, implementation and assessment for some amount of time. Given the State of Alaska's need to:

- Implement and assess the Coordinated Transportation Action Plan produced by the reconstituted CTTF;
- Continue to identify and address regulatory and other barriers to coordination;
- Maximize and leverage existing federal, state and local resources;
- Quantify how much money is actually being expended on human service public transportation activities in Alaska;
- Provide for an authorized entity to manage the match programs on the state and federal level;
- Generate performance measures to ensure the provision of effective and efficient services;
- Empower and encourage local leadership to plan for the needs and services of their own communities; and to
- Ensure "improved interagency planning at the state level;"

The CTTF recommends that:

**I. The State of Alaska enact a statute that establishes, enables and requires coordination of community-based transportation services that use 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 have a lead responsibility for ensuring the coordination of state level resources. 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 and periodically update the Coordination Transportation Action Plan, which extends the recommendations in this report into implementable action.
- 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.

- 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.
- B. Authorize the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to manage the matching program for Federal Transit Administration and state transit funds according to criteria established by the Commission.
- C. Ensure local entities have statutory authority to prepare local Human service Public Transportation Coordinated Plans.
- D. Require applicants for federal or state transit funds to respond to priorities established in their local Human service Public Transportation Coordinated Plans.

## **Recommendation II**

Given the State of Alaska's need to:

- Secure the total or a significant share of the federal funding available to the state to support human service transportation;
- Support the high cost of operating human service public transportation systems and the connectivity between them; and to
- Motivate local leaders to pursue coordination of human service public transportation services for their local residents;

The CTFF recommends that:

**II.** The State of Alaska makes specific state funds available to support operational expenses for human service public transportation projects and providers (which in turn can be identified as match for additional federal funds) during its annual appropriation process. Part of the Commission's responsibility would be to establish programmatic areas and measureable outcomes for funding recipients in order to demonstrate and ensure the benefits of the investment in human service public transportation.

### **Recommendation III**

Given the State of Alaska's need to:

- Empower local leaders to pursue coordination of human service public transportation services for their local residents;
- Support local leaders coordination efforts through technical assistance and resource information respective to funding and best practices; and to
- Ensure that local needs and service gaps are both identified and accounted for in the local coordination planning process;

The CTFF recommends that:

**III.** The State of Alaska enrich and enhance the human service public transportation coordination planning processes by revising and updating coordination planning guidance documents and providing increased technical assistance. The support and guidance is intended to be directly responsive to helping identify local needs and build local awareness and capacity.

The assistance program would:

- A. Generate increased awareness and understanding about the range of funding opportunities available to support mobility management and coordinated planning;
- B. Help foster the engagement of a variety of stakeholders and specifically local human service agencies in the planning process in order to best identify individualized local needs and how to meet them;
- C. Outline and encourage meaningful and innovative coordination opportunities, including providing a list of best practices (i.e. coordination respective to winter maintenance, school districts, vehicle use and sharing vehicles, etc.);
- D. Capitalize on existing data collection resources including the National Transit Database and the Alaska Public Transportation Management System database to expand inputs to support

performance measure initiatives, identify coordination partners and leverage and resources;

- E. Communicate and support the utilization of mobility management practices (using a single point of contact to take calls on a local and regional level to coordinate the provision of services for the client) and securing mobility managers; and
- F. Provide technical assistance for the coordination planning and funding application processes.

#### **Recommendation IV**

Given the State of Alaska's need to:

- Quantify and understand the scope of need for persons with special needs throughout the State of Alaska;
- Inform local coordination planning efforts with actual and accurate data; and to
- Make sound decisions that result in effective services for people with special needs;

The CTTF recommends that:

**IV.** The State of Alaska fund and conduct a statewide needs assessment of Alaskans with special needs to clearly identify the scope of the transportation need. This data will help support local coordination planning efforts and identify previously unidentified needs and gaps. At a minimum, update this data every four years. Through the process of conducting local coordinated planning, additional and increasingly specific local needs will be identified to further inform the assessment data.

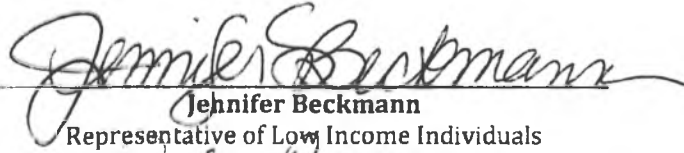
#### **Additional Draft Recommendations**

The CTTF also considered the development of a number of mechanisms and incentives to support coordinated efforts and effectively meet needs. These operational-level recommendations are proposed in draft form, and are included in Appendix D. The CTTF specifically seeks an opportunity for broad public input on the further development of these draft operational-level recommendations, and proposes that the reconstituted CTTF craft that objective and process into the Coordinated Transportation Action Plan.

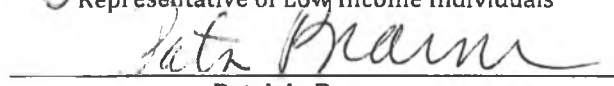


**Appendix A: CTF Signature Page**


**Coordinated Transportation Task Force**

  
**Jennifer Beckmann**  
Representative of Low Income Individuals

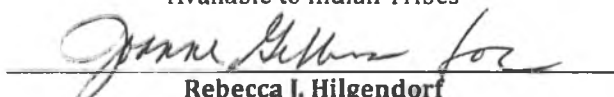
2-11-10  
Date

  
**Patricia Branson**  
Representative of Senior Citizens

2-11-10  
Date

  
**Camille Ferguson**  
Representative of Transportation Providers that  
Received Federal Funding  
Available to Indian Tribes

2-11-10  
Date

  
**Rebecca J. Hilgendorf**  
Health and Social Services  
Commissioner's Designee

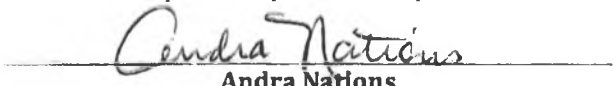
2-11-10  
Date

**Vacant**  
Military and Veteran's Affairs  
Commissioner's Designee

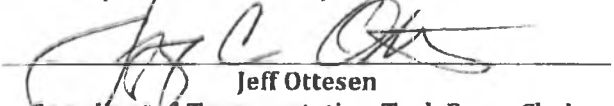
Date

**GLENN MILLER**  
**Glenn Miller**  
Representative of  
Municipal Transportation Departments

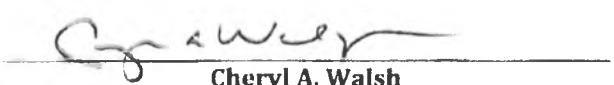
FEB 11, 2010  
Date

  
**Andra Nations**  
Representative of People with Disabilities

2/11/10  
Date

  
**Jeff Ottesen**  
**Coordinated Transportation Task Force Chair**  
Department of Transportation and Public Facilities  
Commissioner's Designee

2-11-10  
Date

  
**Cheryl A. Walsh**  
Department of Labor and Workforce Development  
Commissioner's Designee

2/11/2010  
Date



## **Appendix B: Administrative Order**

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### **ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 243**

I, Sarah Palin, Governor of the State of Alaska, under the authority of art. III, secs. 1 and 24, of the Alaska Constitution, establish the Governor's Coordinated Transportation Task Force.

#### **PURPOSE**

The provision and integration of cost-effective, community-based transportation services to persons with special needs is an important government function. The purpose of this Order creating the task force is to ensure that this function is adequately recognized and properly carried out.

#### **BACKGROUND**

The coordination among agencies providing community-based transportation services to persons with special needs and the sharing of resources to accomplish a cost-effective system of providing those services already has a proven track record in this state. This coordination has increased the availability and quality of services, while helping to eliminate duplication of services and inefficient spending. With the cooperation of other state agencies, the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities currently prepares the Alaska public transportation management system inventory of publicly funded transportation vehicles and equipment in this state, which facilitates the delivery of those services. The Department of Transportation and Public Facilities' efforts to coordinate those services have already led to significant partnerships with human services agencies and the private sector. These partnerships have led to coordinated community-based transportation systems throughout this state.

This coordination and sharing of transportation resources can be furthered through improved interagency planning at the state level. Therefore, the role of the task force is to facilitate and enhance the coordination and integration of community-based public transportation services for the benefit of persons with special needs. The task force would maximize the availability of community-based transportation services, the sharing of transportation resources among government and private entities providing those services, and the coordination among providers of those services.

#### **DUTIES**

The task force shall serve as the advisory committee to the governor to develop policy and procedural recommendations for the state's various existing programs that provide or coordinate community-based transportation services in communities in this state for persons with special needs. These programs are administered primarily through the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, the Department of Health and Social Services, the Department of Education and Early Development, the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, the Alaska Commission on Aging, the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education, the Alaska Mental Health Board, the Governor's Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, and others.

The task force shall perform the following duties:

1. identify state, federal, and local government agencies and private entities that administer or support community-based transportation services for persons with special needs;
2. identify barriers to coordination at the state, federal, and local levels for those services;
3. recommend the removal of barriers that prevent coordination of those services;
4. propose changes in statutes or regulations that would facilitate coordination of those services;
5. develop mechanisms and incentives to governmental agencies to coordinate those services through means including collaborative vehicle use, centralized dispatch services, joint or bulk purchase of fuel and vehicles, multi-purpose transportation voucher programs, centralized maintenance, and joint insurance;

6. identify available financing for accessible services in communities in this state that have limited or no publicly financed transportation services to serve persons with special needs;
7. develop a mechanism to ensure that services for persons with special needs in this state are coordinated and services are evaluated;
8. prepare and issue a final report, including recommendations, concerning the duties set out in this Order.

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

The task force consists of nine voting members, as follows:

1. the commissioner of the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, or the commissioner's designee; that person shall serve as chair;
2. the commissioner of the Department of Health and Social Services, or the commissioner's designee;
3. the commissioner of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, or the commissioner's designee;
4. one member appointed by the governor from the following:
  - a. the commissioner of the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, or the commissioner's designee;
  - b. the commissioner of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, or the commissioner's designee;
  - c. the commissioner of the Department of Education and Early Development, or the commissioner's designee;
  - d. the chair of the board of trustees of the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, an alternate member of the board selected by the board, or the chief executive officer of the Authority; if appointed, the person listed in this provision may name a designee;
5. five members,
  - a. three of whom have expertise in the transportation needs of the following populations:
    - i. senior citizens;
    - ii. persons with disabilities;
    - iii. low-income individuals;
    - iv. transit-dependent individuals;
  - b. two of whom represent the following:
    - i. municipalities;
    - ii. transportation providers that receive federal funding available to Indian tribes, including funds provided under 23 U.S.C. 204(j) and 49 U.S.C. 5311(c).

Members on the task force under paragraph (5) of this Order are appointed by the governor and serve at the pleasure of the governor.

Additionally, the commissioner of the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities shall invite the following agencies to name an advisor to the task force as a non-voting member:

- a. the United States Department of Health and Human Services;
- b. the Federal Transit Administration of the United States Department of Transportation;
- c. the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

#### **OTHER PROVISIONS**

The task force may set operating procedures as bylaws and establish standing and workgroup committees as it considers appropriate. Workgroup committees may include individuals who are not members of the task force.

Task force members do not receive compensation as a member of the task force. Members of the task force who are not state, federal, or local government employees are entitled to per diem and travel expenses in the same manner permitted for members of state boards and commissions. Per diem and travel expenses for a member of the task force who is a representative of a government agency are the responsibility of that agency.

The task force may use teleconferencing or other electronic means, to the extent practicable, in order to gain the widest public participation at minimum cost.

Meetings of the task force shall be conducted, and notice of regular meetings provided, in accordance with AS 44.62.310 and 44.62.312 (open meetings of governmental bodies). A majority of appointed voting members of the task force constitutes a quorum for conducting business.

Records of the task force are subject to inspection and copying as public records under AS 40.25.110 - 40.25.220.

#### **SUPPORT SERVICES**

The Department of Transportation and Public Facilities shall provide administrative support for the task force.

#### **DURATION**

The task force shall forward its final report to the governor on or before January 15, 2010. The task force ceases to exist on the date that the report is forwarded to the governor.

#### **DEFINITIONS**

In this Order,

1. "Alaska public transportation management system" means the principal capital planning document prepared by the state for public transportation;
2. "community-based transportation services" does not include:
  - a. marine highway transportation or air transportation; or
  - b. transportation services for diffuse populations in areas within the state that are too remote for cost-effective centralized community-based transportation;
3. "persons with disabilities" includes persons in this state with the following:
  - a. physical disabilities;
  - b. developmental disabilities;
  - c. mental illness;
  - d. traumatic brain injury;
  - e. dementia;
  - f. substance abuse problems;
4. "persons with special needs" means the following persons in this state who require community-based transportation services:
  - a. senior citizens;
  - b. persons with disabilities;
  - c. preschool children participating in a head start program financed by the United States Department of Health and Human services;
  - d. public school students;
  - e. low-income individuals, including those receiving public assistance or Medicaid;
  - f. other persons with special needs;
5. "services" means community-based transportation services delivered in this state;
6. "task force" means the Governor's Coordinated Transportation Task Force.

This Order takes effect immediately.

DATED at Scranton, PA this 14th day of October, 2008.

## Appendix C: Alaska State Agency Human service Transportation Resources

DRAFT: FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY/NUMBERS TO BE VERIFIED  
Some numbers may be duplicated

Agency	Program	Recipient	Fares and Local (Est.)	Tribes	Schools	Private	State	Federal	Total	
1	Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority	Capital funding	Mental illness, chronic alcoholism, developmental disabilities, Alzheimer's and related dementia			\$300,000	\$800,000		\$1,100,000	
2	Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development	Alaska Legislative Grants Community Development Block Grants (HUD)	Businesses, communities and consumers of the state							
3	Department of Education and Early Development	Pupil Transportation	School aged children		\$53,250,187					
4	Department of Health and Social Services	<b>Division of Senior and Disabilities Services</b>	In Community						\$62,255	
		Developmental Disability Grants	Outside Community						\$20,545	
		Medicaid waiver	Escort (one-way) Transportation (one way)						\$841,397	
		Medicaid non-waiver							\$2,577,194	
		<b>Administration on Aging - Older American's Act Title III B Funds</b>	Assisted Transportation				X	X	\$1,506.303	\$1,506.303
		Nutrition, Transportation and Support Services	Un-assisted Transportation (117,382 rides)				X	X	\$1,684.044	\$1,684.044
		<b>Office of Children's Services</b>	Time Limited Reunification Services and Rural Social Services Grant	Services to children who are subjected to or at risk of being subjected to abuse or neglect and to their families					\$1,750,000	Title IV-E/IV-B or Medicaid match \$1,750,000
		<b>Division of Behavioral Health</b>	Designated Evaluation and Treatment	Alaskans with a mental health or addition disorder or high risk behavior (331 transports in FY08)						\$435,926
		Low income/Indigent	Not eligible for other benefits					\$50,000		\$50,000
		<b>Division of Juvenile Justice</b>		Alaskan juveniles typically ages 12-18 but sometimes ages 9-20 going via any mode for variety of needs						\$400,000
	<b>Pioneer Homes</b>	Alaskan residents age 65+ admitted to a home for recreational, social,	Room and Board				General Fund		?	

		Public Assistance ATAP/TANF	community and health activities Alaskans of all ages who qualify by need and other circumstances (i.e., financial, age, ability to work) for a variety of purposes	payments			?
5	Department of Labor and Workforce Development	Division of Business Partnerships	State Employment and Training, Workforce Investment, Pipeline Working Training, and Denali Training		\$857,748	\$116,053	\$973,801
		Employment Security Division	State Employment and Training and Workforce Investment		\$69,473	\$594,997	\$664,470
		Vocational Rehabilitation	DVR Consumers with disabilities, including physical and orthopedic, cognitive, psychiatric, blindness/visual impairment, and deafness/hearing loss				\$220,000
6	Department of Military and Veterans Affairs		Rural Alaska Veterans with Health Care Needs				?
7	Alaska Native Tribes	5311 Tribal Transit (Capital and operating assistance for rural/Acquisition of PT services, including agreement with private providers)	Alaska Native Tribes Tribal Transit Selections 2008 <u>Operations</u> The Sitka Tribe: \$172,900 Tetlin Village Council: \$225,000 Orutsararmiut Native Council: \$175,000 Gulkana Village Council: \$200,000			\$892,900	\$892,900
		Title III Elderly and Disabled Roads Safety Programs Congressional Grants Other Grants Indian Reservation Roads	Central Council Tlingit and Haida Tribes of Alaska: \$250,000 Georgetown Tribal Council: \$25,000	\$45,376,668			
8	Department of Transportation and Public Facilities	5310 - Elderly and Persons with Disabilities plus STP transfer	Rural and Urban			\$558,768	\$558,768
		5311 - Rural Transit - Rural Training Assistance Program	Rural			\$5,141,709	\$5,141,709
		5304 - Statewide Planning	Rural			\$101,742	\$101,742
		5303 Metropolitan Planning (MPO)	Urban			\$374,505	\$374,505
		5316 - Job Access Reverse Commute	Rural and Urban			\$230,480	\$230,480
		5317 - New Freedoms	Rural and Urban			\$136,692	\$136,692
		5309 - Statewide Congressional Earmarks				\$570,000	\$570,000
5307 - Urban Transit (minus Alaska railroad)	Urban			\$5,078,293	\$5,078,293		
				\$45,376,668	\$53,250,187		

## Appendix D: Draft Operational-level Recommendations

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The CTTF also considered the development of a number of mechanisms and incentives to support coordinated efforts and effectively meet needs. The CTTF specifically seeks an opportunity for broad public input on the further development of the following draft operational-level recommendations.

- A. Establish statewide design and operating standards for consistently accessible public transportation facilities and services, specifically including state and local government coordination.
  - Provide adequate access for persons with special needs. Specific opportunities include the design and maintenance of bus stop facilities and sidewalks to address challenges associated with winter weather and to promote interagency coordination in management and operations.
- B. Identify, adapt and apply technological enhancements that stimulate coordination and promote effective service delivery
  - Review the transit technology report currently under development to inform potential technological enhancements to service delivery (i.e., vouchers, etc.).
  - Generate a coordinated statewide planning tool (e.g. Google Transit or the Alaska DOT second generation 511 system), where all systems are available within one resource and people can plan their trip via modes and accessibility. Utilize the tool to identify gaps and address issues of connectivity.
- C. Implement consistent messages across organizations regarding coordination of transportation.
  - Unite as stakeholders in generating a shared vision and message respective to public and human service public transportation by participating in and embracing the Alaska Mobility Coalition's public awareness campaign. Perpetuate the distribution of that messaging through stakeholders' respective venues and communications efforts.
- D. Develop minimum training standards for those providing transportation services.
  - Develop minimum training standards for transit staff, specifically including customer service, cultural sensitivity, assisting people with disabilities, safety, passenger assistance, and more to generate an environment conducive to providing effective, appropriate and safe transportation for people with special needs.
- E. Articulate and require minimum inspection and maintenance standards for publicly-funded vehicle(s).
  - For agencies who don't currently follow any standardized maintenance practice, articulate minimum inspection and maintenance standards for publicly-funded vehicle(s), ensuring that a maintenance plan and a tracking of follow-through of that maintenance plan is available at all times. This strategy increases the viability and safety of the publicly funded

resource over time, maximizes the resource, and enhances service delivery. Legislation to support this requirement may be necessary to ensure it is implemented.

F. Streamline the process for procurement and disposal of transportation assets.

- Utilize a single entity to effectively procure and dispose of transportation assets on behalf of all entities, generating efficiencies for all entities utilizing the resource and enabling them to focus those resources on service delivery.

G. Explore how to help resource local coordination efforts.

- Factor into the state funding structure a process for providing some supports to local entities who assume responsibility for the coordination of human service public transportation services.

## Appendix E: Administrative Order

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### ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 252

I, Sean Parnell, Governor of the State of Alaska, under the authority of art. III, secs. 1 and 24, of the Alaska Constitution, issue this Order to affirm Administrative Order No. 243, establishing the Governor's Coordinated Transportation Task Force, and to extend the date for its final report and the duration of the task force.

On October 14, 2008, Administrative Order No. 243 was signed, establishing the Governor's Coordinated Transportation Task Force to advise the governor with respect to the state's various programs that provide or coordinate community-based transportation services in this state for persons with special needs. This Order affirms the continuation of this important task force. To further the goals of the task force, by this Order I am extending the date for submission of its final report until April 15, 2010 and continuing the task force's existence until the report is forwarded to the office of the governor.

The remaining provisions of Administrative Order No. 243 are unchanged and continue in effect.

This Order takes effect immediately.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska this 17th day of November, 2009.

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[www.census.gov/acs](http://www.census.gov/acs). 2008 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau. October 2009.

[www.doa.alaska.gov/gds/ExecSummary.pdf](http://www.doa.alaska.gov/gds/ExecSummary.pdf). 2008 Geographic Differential Study.6

[www.localschooldirectory.com/state-schools/AK](http://www.localschooldirectory.com/state-schools/AK)

## Letters of Support

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Letters of support have been submitted in response to the Coordinated Transportation Task Force Recommendations Report. Copies of those letters received prior to the printing of this document follow.

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# The TRUST

The Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority

November 24, 2009

Governor Sean Parnell  
State of Alaska  
P.O. Box 110001  
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Dear Governor Parnell:

**Subject: Support for Coordinated Transportation**

On November 19, 2009, the Board of Trustees of the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority moved to support the Governor's Coordinated Transportation Task Force (CTTF) recommendations, specifically the final draft version dated November 4, 2009.

In addition Trustees moved to support several actions proposed by the Trust-related Coordinated Transportation advocacy group, specifically asking the Governor to:

- Place in the Governor's FY2011 budget a \$3 million increment for defray some of the operating expenses of coordinated transportation systems across Alaska (Alaska is only one of three states with no state funds for this purpose),
- Extend the sunset date of the Governor's Coordinated Transportation Task Force to June 30, 2011, and
- Support in the Governor's FY2011 Mental Health Appropriation Bill, the capital funding recommendations of the Trust, specifically \$800,000 GF/MH to match the \$300,000 MHTAAR for coordinated transportation capital needs.

Coordinated Transportation is critical for the health and meaningful engagement of Trust beneficiaries as a significant percentage of them do not have the capacity to transport themselves. The CTTF report describes persons with special needs that may require coordinated transportation comprise more than 25% of Alaska's population. These are those experiencing poverty, those receiving public assistance, seniors over 60, and those with a disability. Also 22 percent of the State's population lives off the highway system, and therefore often must use public transportation to arrive at urban hospitals and other urban destinations.

The Trust supports these specific CTTF recommendations:

- Enact a statute that institutionalizes and requires coordination of community-based transportation services.
- Support state funds for coordinated transportation operating expenses to be used to match federal and local support.

November 24, 2009

- Enhance State transportation coordination planning processes, documents and technical assistance to identify local needs and increase local awareness and capacity.
- The State should fund and conduct a statewide needs assessment of those with special needs to clearly identify the scope of their transportation need.

Sincerely,



Jeff Jesse  
Executive Director

Cc: Karen Rehfeld, Director, OMB



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

REGION X  
Alaska, Idaho, Oregon,  
Washington

915 Second Avenue  
Federal Bldg. Suite 3142  
Seattle, WA 98174-1002  
206-220-7954  
206-220-7959 (fax)

DEC -9 2009

Jeff Ottesen  
Chair, Governor's Coordinated Transportation Task Force  
Director, Division of Program Development  
Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities  
P.O. Box 112500  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Mr. Ottesen,

As provided for in Alaska Governor's Administrative Order 243, I have represented the Federal Transit Administration as a non-voting advisor to the Coordinated Transportation Task Force during this year.

I want to commend the members of the Task Force for their diligence, open manner of their inquiry and the resulting important report and recommendations to the Governor.

The State of Alaska is facing the same type of challenges as other states to address the varying transportation needs of the public. The United States Department of Transportation's most recent Report on the Status of the Nation's Highways, Bridges and Transit: Conditions and Performance examined the sources of transit revenue and found that while the federal government contributed approximately 18% of transit revenues nationwide, local and state sources were needed to provide the majority of income necessary to support public transportation's mission to provide mobility choices to get people to important destinations such as employment centers, homes, medical institutions and schools.

I look forward to monitoring the actions taken by the Governor and the Legislature to address the vital requirements identified in this report. Please let us know how the Federal Transit Administration can be helpful to meet the transportation needs of Alaskans.

Sincerely,

R. F. Krochalis  
Regional Administrator



January 8, 2010

Governor Sean Parnell  
State of Alaska  
P.O. Box 110601  
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Dear Governor Parnell:

Central Area Rural Transit System, Inc. (CARTS) is responsible for providing public transportation for the residents of the central Kenai Peninsula.

We have followed with interest and enthusiasm the work of the Governor's Coordinated Transportation Task Force (CTTF), and we support and encourage you to endorse the group's recommendations.

Coordination is a shared responsibility of all entities responsible for providing transportation services or for making those services available to clients. Only through coordination can transit providers, human service agencies, private institutions, businesses, volunteers and political leaders broaden transportation options by way of modes, routes and providers and ensure the connectivity between them. An outcome of coordination is the efficient and effective use of transportation resources for getting people to important destinations.

The CTTF has generated a series of recommendations, the outcome of which is intended to generate a culture that promotes and sustains coordination on many levels. The result enables us to maximize our limited resources while attentively serving those individuals with special needs.

A coordinated system is an ongoing process. One of the CTTF's recommendations is to generate, for a four-year period, a Coordinated Transportation Commission with responsibility for ensuring the coordination of many and diverse federal and state level resources intended to serve shared clients - people with special needs who may be seniors, people with disabilities, or low income individuals.

The complexity of the existing structure and the capacity to talk across systems underscores the need to continue the interagency work to coordinate across systems. The proposed infrastructure that supports that cross-system work will help to sustain the coordinated culture long into the future.

Thank you for your serious consideration of the CTTF recommendations. Please know that we sincerely hope you endorse it, and that people with special needs across Alaska are able to benefit by being able to get where they need to go in a safe and efficient manner.

Sincerely,

Judy Keck-Walsh  
President

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By: Luke Hopkins, Mayor  
Introduced: 01/14/10  
Adopted: 01/14/10

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH

RESOLUTION NO. 2010 - 03

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNOR'S COORDINATED  
TRANSPORTATION TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT

WHEREAS, the Governor's Coordinated Transportation Task Force (CTTF) was established under Administrative Order 243 on October 14, 2008; and

WHEREAS, the CTTF was officially assigned the responsibility to study and make recommendations on how the State can coordinate the provision of cost-effective, community-based transportation services to persons with special needs; and

WHEREAS, under the Administrative Order the CTTF was directed to define how to maximize the availability of community-based transportation services, the sharing of transportation resources among government and private entities providing those services, and the coordination among providers of those services; and

WHEREAS, during 2009 the CTTF held five face-to-face public meetings and six teleconferences available to the public to pursue their study and generate this report; and

WHEREAS, this report outlines the transportation needs especially for persons with special needs as described by the Administrative Order including people with physical, developmental or mental disabilities, senior citizens, low income individuals and others without access to existing, workable transportation opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the Fairbanks North Star Borough has been a strong proponent for improved coordination of transportation services since 1999.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Assembly of the Fairbanks North Star Borough supports the Governor's Coordinated Transportation Task Force Recommendations Report.

AMENDMENTS ARE SHOWN IN LEGISLATIVE FORMAT

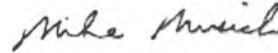
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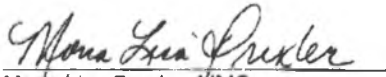
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Alaska Interior Delegation, the Honorable Governor Sean Parnell and the members of the Governor's Coordinated Transportation Task Force.  
2010.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 14<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JANUARY 2010.



Mike Musick  
Presiding Officer

ATTEST:



Morja Lisa Drexler, MMC  
Municipal Borough Clerk

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Ayes: Brown, Howrd, Beck, Blanchard II, Bartos, Want, Winters, Sattley, Musick,  
Noes: None

Date: January 20, 2010

**FAIRBANKS METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM (FMATS)  
RESOLUTION NO. 2010-01**

**AN FMATS RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNOR'S COORDINATED  
TRANSPORTATION TASK FORCE (CTTF) RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT.**

**WHEREAS**, the Governor's Coordinated Transportation Task Force was established under Administrative Order 243 on October 14, 2008; and

**WHEREAS**, provision and integration of cost-effective, community-based transportation services to persons with special needs is an important function; and

**WHEREAS**, such coordination among agencies in other areas has proven beneficial to those with transportation needs. Therefore, increasing the availability of community-based transportation services statewide will enhance the quality of life for those which are transportation disadvantaged; and


**WHEREAS**, the recommendations included in the report provide a framework for the State of Alaska to more effectively serve people with special needs by generating and sustaining a coordinated transportation environment; and

**WHEREAS**, whereas the CTTF members, including the Fairbanks North Star Borough Transportation Director, endorse this approach and support the legislative changes it proposes and commit to its implementation.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, FMATS supports the Governor's Coordinated Task Force Recommendations Report.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Alaska Interior Delegation, the Honorable Governor Sean Parnell and the members of the Governor's Coordinated Transportation Task Force.

**PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 20<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JANUARY, 2010.**

  
Steve Titus, P.E.  
FMATS Policy Committee, Chair



**Sitka Tribe of Alaska  
456 Katlian Street  
Sitka, Alaska**

**(907) 747-3207  
Fax: (907) 747-4915**

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**Tribal Council Resolution 2009 - 189**

**Endorse the 2009 Recommendations Report of the Governor's Coordinated  
Transportation Task Force.**

- WHEREAS,** the Sitka Tribe of Alaska is the federally recognized tribal government for more than 4,020 enrolled tribal citizens in Sitka, Alaska organized under the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 as amended; and
- WHEREAS,** the Sitka Tribe of Alaska is responsible for the health, safety, welfare and cultural preservation of its tribal citizens and their use of the Sitka Tribe of Alaska's traditional territory; and
- WHEREAS,** the Sitka Tribe of Alaska's traditional territory reflects the lands and waters historically and presently the stewardship responsibility of the Shee't'ka Kwaan and such are composed of the western side of Baranof Island, the greater reaches of Peril Strait, southwestern portions of Chichagof Island and the myriad of islands as well as the waters between these locations; and
- WHEREAS,** the Sitka Tribe of Alaska currently supports and participates in the Sitka public transit systems coordinated agency by way of in-kind contributions, contracted services and the Tribes Title VI funding to assist in the Care-A-van serves for the elders of Sitka; and
- WHEREAS,** Sitka Tribe of Alaska recognizes Sitka Public Transit provides economic and social benefits to the community by providing access to school, work, healthcare and social events; and
- WHEREAS,** Sitka Tribe of Alaska recognizes that persons with special needs, including seniors, people with disabilities, and low incomes specifically rely on public and human-service transportation services to get them to important and essential destinations, such as jobs, medical appointments and other services and events, and
- WHEREAS,** Sitka Tribe of Alaska recognizes that coordination of services and resources throughout Tribal, federal, state and local governments is essential to the effective and efficient delivery of transportation resources, and
- WHEREAS,** the State of Alaska can ensure the effective and efficient delivery of transportation resources by generating a sustainable culture of coordination, and

**WHEREAS,** the State of Alaska tasked the Governor's Coordinated Transportation Task Force of state agencies, Tribal and stakeholder representatives in Administrative Order 243 to coordinate the provision of cost-effective, community-based transportation services to persons with special needs by maximizing the availability of community-based transportation services, the sharing of transportation resources among government and private entities providing the services, and the coordination among providers of those services; and

**WHEREAS** the Governor's Coordinated Transportation Task Force has developed a Recommendations Report responding to this Order; and

**WHEREAS,** the draft Recommendations Report presents recommendations that generate a meaningful and sustainable human-service public transportation coordination culture throughout the state of Alaska;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** the Sitka Tribe of Alaska endorses the Governor's Coordinated Transportation Task Force Recommendations Report; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED,** the Sitka Tribe of Alaska encourages the adoption of the Governor's Coordinated Transportation Task Force Recommendations Report 2009 by the State of Alaska.

#### CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at a duly called and convened meeting of the Tribal Council of the Sitka Tribe of Alaska held on December 16, 2009 at which a quorum was present by a vote of 8 IN FAVOR, 0 AGAINST, 0 ABSTAIN, 1 ABSENT.

Signed:

Michael A. Barnes  
Sitka Tribe of Alaska, Tribal Vice - Chairman

Attest:

Clara M. [Signature]  
Sitka Tribe of Alaska - Tribal Secretary

**ALASKA STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING  
COUNCIL, INC.**



1057 W Fireweed Lane, Ste 206  
Anchorage AK 99503

Toll Free 1 888 294 7452  
Phone 907 263-2092, 2011  
Fax 907 263-2012

December 18, 2009

State of Alaska  
Office of the Governor  
P.O. Box 110001  
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Dear Governor Parnell,

The Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) is pleased to support the Governor's Coordinated Transportation Task Force (CTTF) recommendations, specifically the final draft version dated November 23, 2009.

Transportation is one of the foundations of independent living for elders and Alaskans with disabilities. Without reliable transportation access to everyday, community activities, such as employment, recreation, or medical appointments, is limited. Through a series of public forums that the SILC has recently conducted in Bethel, Fairbanks and Anchorage, Alaskans with disabilities have consistently named transportation as the top need for maintaining independence.

In Alaska, transportation takes many unique forms, especially in more distant regions. While residents of Anchorage and Fairbanks may have the opportunity to use public transit for daily transportation, for example, those living in Kwethluk may have to use a combination of dog sled and small airplane just to reach Bethel, where they can access necessary services. The Statewide Independent Living Council supports the CTTF recommendations, taking into consideration especially the needs of rural Alaskan communities.

Through the types of activities and coordination outlined in the CTTF recommendations, Alaskans with special needs will maintain a better quality of life, while remaining in their home communities.

Sincerely,

James Beck  
Chair



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

March 15, 2011

The Honorable Albert Kookesh  
State Senator  
State Capitol Room 11  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Kookesh:

The Juneau Economic Development Council (JEDC) enthusiastically supports SB 77 (State funding for Public and Community Transportation in Alaska). SB 77 calls for appropriating up to \$3 million to help communities match up to \$12 million in federal public transit dollars.

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.

Alaska is one of just three states that do not provide general operating support for transit service. 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 top capacity. There are a number of additional benefits our bus system could and should be providing our community, such as extending the bus service to the ferry terminal or the Lemon Creek industrial area; and increasing evening and weekend service for employees who work nontraditional hours.

We urge you to support additional funding of public transportation in Juneau and throughout all of Alaska.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Kurt Fredriksson.

Kurt Fredriksson  
Board Chair

Handwritten signature of Brian Holst.

Brian Holst  
Executive Director

Cc: Senator Dennis Egan  
Representative Beth Kerttula  
Representative Cathy Munoz



**RESOLUTION of the Board of Directors in support of State of Alaska Senate Bill 77,  
"An Act making a special appropriation to the Department of Transportation and  
Public Facilities to provide matching grant funds for operating expenses for  
certain locally and federally funded public transit projects; and providing for an  
effective date."**

Resolution 02-11

**WHEREAS**, According to the American Public Transportation Association:

- Every \$1 billion invested in public transportation capital and operations supports an average of 36,000 jobs;
- These 36,000 jobs result in roughly \$3.6 billion in business sales and generate nearly \$500 million in federal, state, and local tax revenues;
- For every \$1 invested in public transportation, \$4 is generated in economic returns;
- Every \$10 million in capital investment in public transportation can return up to \$30 million in business sales alone; and
- Each year, an individual can achieve an average annual savings of more than \$9,000 by taking public transportation instead of driving and by living with one less car.

**WHEREAS**, Alaska is one of just three states that do not provide general operating support for transit service. 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.

**WHEREAS**, The State of Alaska currently provides direct general fund matching assistance for other modes of transportation, including highways, aviation, and harbors. Annual federal funding available to Alaska for transit assistance varies from year-to-year, but averages nine million dollars or more. In many cases, Alaska is not capturing these federal funds due to insufficient matching funding. State funds to help meet the match requirement would put public and community transportation providers on a parity level with other federal and state "partnerships" that provide transportation for Alaskans.

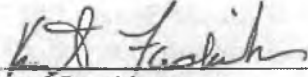
**WHEREAS**, JEDC has provided leadership for completion of the City and Borough of Juneau's (CBJ's) coordinated transportation plan with financial support from the State of Alaska Department of Transportation and has assisted the CBJ to apply for funding for a Mobility Manager position at the CBJ.

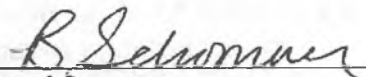
**WHEREAS**, Senate Bill 77 appropriates three million dollars to the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to award to community transit providers through a competitive grant process, with a required 50% match requirement (in kind or cash).

**WHEREAS**, Senate Bill 77 is a legislative priority for the Municipality of Anchorage, the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, the Alaska Mobility Coalition, the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education, and the Alaska Commission on Aging.

**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 Senate Bill 77.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Board President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Secretary

3-17-2011  
Date

3-17-2011  
Date

# Chickaloon Village Traditional Council



February 28, 2011

Gary Harrison,  
*Traditional Chief*

**The Honorable Albert Kookesh  
State Senator  
Alaska State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801**

**Dear Senator Kookesh:**

Doug Wade  
*Chairman/Elder*

On behalf of the Chickaloon Village Traditional Council, I would like to express my support for SB 77 (State funding for Public and Community Transportation in Alaska). SB 77 calls for appropriating up to \$3 million to help communities match up to \$12 million in federal public transit dollars.

Ricky Harrison  
*Vice-Chairman*

Penny Westing,  
*Secretary/Elder*

Chickaloon Village Traditional Council recently started a Public Transit bus route from Chickaloon to Palmer, Alaska, and sees a further need for transit in our area. We are presently providing commuter service only during the morning and late afternoon Monday through Friday, but would like to be able to offer services beginning earlier in the day to connect with Valley Mover or MASCOT for commuters going to Anchorage, and expand services in the evening to pick up those same commuters from Anchorage. It has been difficult to connect with MASCOT's present routes to Wasilla so individuals from our area may reach places like the State of Alaska Employment Services Office.

Albert Harrison,  
*Treasurer/Elder*

Jesse Lanman,  
*Elder Member*

Burt Shaginoff,  
*Elder Member*

Larry Wade,  
*Elder Member*

In order to expand our services we will need a second and possibly third transit vehicle, as well as a Transit Center in Sutton to house these vehicles and additional staff. We have a small contract with the Federal Transit Administration. However, they are very limited in their resources and try to serve everyone on a competitive basis. State funding for general operating support would allow our limited resources to be stretched, enabling the traveling public to reach their destinations in a timely manner. We started our services in mid-January 2011, but unless we receive a second competitive grant from the Federal Transit Administration, we will shortly close our doors at the end of December. This would be tragic for those individuals just beginning to rely on public transportation.

Jennifer Harrison,  
*Executive Director*

Alaska is one of just three states that do not provide general operating support for road transit services. Public and community transit programs provide transportation for thousands of Alaskans every day who go to work, school and medical appointments. Many of the passengers we work with could not fully participate in the community without bus service. This is not just a function of

P. O. Box 1105 Chickaloon, Alaska 99674  
e-mail: [cvarmin@chickaloon.org](mailto:cvarmin@chickaloon.org)

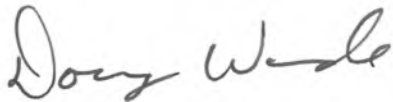
Phone (907) 745-0707 Fax (907) 745-0709  
Home Page: <http://www.chickaloon.org>

**Chickaloon Village**  
*Traditional Council*

local taxpayers; all Alaskans benefit by reducing traffic on Alaska's roads and highways and increasing air quality standards statewide. We believe that a partnership between the state, community and public transportation providers is long overdue and will benefit all road users around the state.

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

**May Creator Guide Our Footsteps,**



**Doug Wade**  
Chairman

**Cc: Senator John Coghill**  
State Capitol Room 504  
Juneau AK, 99801

**Representative Eric Feige**  
State Capitol, Rm. 126  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182



217 Second Street, Suite 200 • Juneau, Alaska 99801  
Tel (907) 586-1325 • Fax (907) 463-5480 • [www.akml.org](http://www.akml.org)

February 18, 2011

Senator Johnny Ellis  
State Capital  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

RE: Support for SB77

Dear Senator Ellis,

The Alaska Municipal League would like to go on record as being in strong support of SB77.

As Alaska grows, we are finding ourselves more and more reliant on public transit in our larger communities. However, as fuel prices continue to rise, as well as so many other costs incurred by local governments, municipalities find themselves less and less able to continue to provide public transit services. Public transportation is not a service that everyone uses, thus it often becomes a target when budgets need to be balanced.

People with better paying jobs can still get around, as they are usually automobile owners. Low-income, elderly and special needs citizens are highly dependent on public transportation and their situation is affected greatly by diminished public transportation schedules.

We know that public transportation can affect our environment by reducing the number of cars on our roads and highways. We know that public transportation allows more of our residents to maintain jobs or attend school, thus improving our economies.

We applaud you for introducing this bill and would hope that the Alaska Legislature would see fit to make sure that Alaska is no longer one of the three states that do not provide funding for local public transportation operations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Kathie Wasserman'.

Kathie Wasserman  
Executive Director

February 18, 2011

The Honorable Albert Kookesh  
State Senator  
Alaska State Capitol  
Juneau, AK. 99801


Dear Senator Kookesh:

On behalf of the Homer Coordinated Transportation Project, I would to express my support for SB 77 (State funding for Public and Community Transportation in Alaska). SB 77 calls for appropriating up to \$3 million to help communities match up to \$12 million in federal public transits dollars.

Alaska is one of just three states that do not provide general operating support for transit service. Public and Community transit programs provide transportation for thousands of Alaskans every day who go to work, school and medical appointments. Many of the passengers with whom we work could not fully participate in the community without bus service. This is not just a function of local taxpayers. All Alaskans benefit by reducing traffic on Alaska's roads and highways and increasing air quality standards statewide. We believe that a partnership between the state, community and public transportation providers is long overdue and will benefit all road users around the state.

Thank you for your efforts in supporting transit in Alaska.

Sincerely,

  
Laurie Deakins  
Medicaid Waiver Care Coordinator  
South Peninsula Hospital  
52818 Old East End Road, Homer, AK 99603  
907.235.0273

## Nancy Barnes

---

**From:** Patti Boily [homeril2@peninsulailc.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 18, 2011 12:39 PM  
**To:** Sen. Albert Kookesh  
**Subject:** SB 77

Dear Senator Kookesh,

On behalf of the Homer Coordinated Transportation Program I encourage you to support SB 77 (State funding for Public and Community Transportation in Alaska). SB 77 calls for appropriating up to \$3 million to help communities match up to \$12 million in federal public transit dollars.

Alaska is one of just three states that do not provide general operating support for transit service. Public and Community transit programs provide transportation for thousands of Alaskans every day who go to work, school and medical appointments. Many of our citizens could not fully participate in their communities without bus or taxi service. We believe that a partnership between the state, communities and public transportation providers is long overdue and this bill will go a long ways towards ensuring communities are able to meet the transportation needs of their citizens.

As it so happens I will be in Juneau on February 22<sup>nd</sup> when your committee holds its hearing on this bill. If my plane is on time I hope to be able to attend your meeting in person.

Thank you for your efforts in supporting transportation in Alaska.

Sincerely,

Patricia A Boily  
4935 Clover Lane  
Homer, AK 99603  
(907) 235-7391  
[pbbaily@xyz.net](mailto:pbbaily@xyz.net)

Independent Living Center  
PO Box 2474  
Homer, AK 99603  
(907) 235-7911  
[homeril2@peninsulailc.org](mailto:homeril2@peninsulailc.org)

## Nancy Barnes

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**From:** Kim Burrows [reception@peninsulailc.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 18, 2011 10:52 AM  
**To:** Sen. Albert Kookesh  
**Subject:** To the Senate Transportation Committee re: SB 77

The Honorable Albert Kookesh  
State Senator  
Alaska State Capitol  
Juneau, AK. 99801

Dear Senator Kookesh:

On behalf of the Homer Coordinated Transportation Project, I would like to express my support for SB 77 (State funding for Public and Community Transportation in Alaska). SB 77 calls for appropriating up to \$3 million to help communities match up to \$12 million in federal public transit dollars.

Alaska is one of just three states that do not provide general operating support for transit service. Public and Community transit programs provide transportation for thousands of Alaskans every day who go to work, school and medical appointments. Many of the passengers with whom we work could not fully participate in the community without bus service. This is not just a function of local taxpayers. All Alaskans benefit by reducing traffic on Alaska's roads and highways and increasing air quality standards statewide. We believe that a partnership between the state, community and public transportation providers is long overdue and will benefit all road users around the state.

Thank you for your efforts in supporting transit in Alaska.

Sincerely,

*Kim Burrows*  
Independent Living Center  
P.O. Box 2474  
Homer, AK 99603  
Phone: 907-235-7911  
Fax: 907-235-6236



## **ALASKA CENTER *for the* ENVIRONMENT**

807 G Street, Suite 100, Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Phone: (907)274-3656 Fax: (907)274-8733 e-mail: toby@akcenter.org

February 10, 2011

The Honorable Albert Kookesh  
State Senator  
Alaska State Capitol  
Juneau, AK. 99801

Dear Senator Kookesh:

On behalf of the Alaska Center for the Environment I would to express my support for SB 77 (State funding for Public and Community Transportation in Alaska). SB 77 calls for appropriating up to \$3 million to help communities match up to \$12 million in federal public transits dollars.

Alaska is one of just three states that do not provide general operating support for transit service. Public and Community transit programs provide transportation for thousands of Alaskans every day who go to work, school and medical appointments. Many of the passengers we work with could not fully participate in the community without bus service. This is not just a function of local taxpayers; all Alaskans benefit by reducing traffic on Alaska's roads and highways and increasing air quality standards statewide. We believe that a partnership between the state, community and public transportation providers is long overdue and will benefit all road users around the state.

Thank you for your efforts in supporting transit in Alaska. I look forward to working with you and the Alaska legislature on this request during the upcoming legislative session.

Sincerely,

Toby Smith  
Executive Director  
Alaska Center for the Environment

CC: David Levy, Executive Director, Alaska Mobility Coalition

# 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

February 21, 2011

Senator Johnny Ellis  
Alaska State Capitol, Room 103  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

**Subject: Support for SB 77**

Dear Senator Ellis:

The Alaska Commission on Aging (ACoA) is pleased to offer our support of SB 77, a bill to appropriate \$3 million from the State's General Funds to the Department of Transportation & Public Facilities to incentivize local transit systems so that they are able to leverage maximum federal financial assistance to support operating expenses for their public transit projects that could amount to \$12 to \$15 million of additional funds to Alaska for transit purposes.

Safe, accessible and affordable transportation options are essential for older Alaskans and people with disabilities so that they are able to access medical care, get to their job and volunteer placements and to participate in community life. Transportation is one of the top needs consistently identified in statewide surveys of these populations, including the elder-senior community forums and a statewide senior survey recently conducted by ACoA to determine priority concerns of older Alaskans.

Community transportation is a life-line for seniors and people with physical and cognitive disabilities to ensure a healthy quality of life. As the number of seniors in Alaska grows at a pace of four times the national average, the ACoA recommends that the state of Alaska support legislation and adequate funding for community transit systems that serve special needs populations.

Alaska is one of only three states that does not provide financial support to operate public and community transportation systems. Transportation costs are rising dramatically. Fuel costs, maintenance and insurance premiums are going up and providers are responding by reducing hours of service and raising fares. These changes impact seniors and others with disabilities who live on a fixed income and depend on community transit services.

Please accept our sincere appreciation for your efforts to support improvements to community transit services for older Alaskans and others with disabilities. We believe that SB 77 will help build local community transportation services to improve services for all users, particularly for Alaska's most vulnerable citizens. Please feel free to 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. Thank you.

Sincerely,

  
Sharon Howerton-Clark  
Chair, Alaska Commission on Aging

Sincerely,

  
Denise Daniello  
ACoA Executive Director



## *Alaska Conservation Alliance*

"A Strong Economy and Healthy Environment Go Hand in Hand"

2/21/11

Senator Albert Kookesh  
State Capitol, Rm. 11  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Sen. Kookesh:

The Alaska Conservation Alliance supports SB 77, which would appropriate \$3 million in state funds for public transit statewide and leverage another \$12 million in Federal funding. The Conservation Alliance is an umbrella group with about 40 member organizations and a combined membership of over 38,000 Alaskans. We serve to advance conservation in Alaska and believe that a healthy environment and a strong economy go hand in hand.

Public transit is an important part of the local economy for Alaskan communities. A strong transit system can provide reliable transportation to and from work, school, and medical appointments. It also cuts traffic on our roads and lowers pollution.

Alaska has an opportunity to make significant improvements in transit systems across the state by leveraging \$12 million in Federal funds with an investment of \$3 million; a four to one rate of return, which is pretty good. The state should step up and support locally financed transit and create a Federal, state, and local partnership.

SB 77 is a sensible way to diversify funding for public transit by bringing state and Federal dollars to the game. Thank you for moving forward with this legislation.

Sincerely,

Caitlin Higgins  
Executive Director  
Alaska Conservation Alliance



**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH**

**Borough Manager**

350 East Dahlia Avenue • Palmer, AK 99645

Phone (907) 745-9688 • Fax (907) 745-9669

Elizabeth.gray@matsugov.us

February 17, 2011

The Honorable Albert Kookesh  
State Senator  
Alaska State Capitol  
Juneau, AK, 99801

Dear Senator Kookesh:

On behalf of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough I would to express my support for SB 77 (State funding for Public and Community Transportation in Alaska). SB 77 calls for appropriating up to \$3 million to help communities match up to \$12 million in federal public transits dollars.

Alaska is one of just three states that do not provide general operating support for transit service. Public and Community transit programs such as MASCOT , Valley Mover and Chickaloon Native Tribe Transit in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough provide transportation for thousands of Alaskans every day who go to work, school and medical appointments. Many of the passengers would not fully participate in the community without bus service. This is not just a function of local taxpayers; all Alaskans benefit by reducing traffic congestion on Alaska's roads and highways and increasing air quality standards statewide. We believe that a partnership between the state, community and public transportation providers is long overdue and will benefit all road users around the state.

Thank you for your efforts in supporting transit in Alaska. I look forward to working with you and the Alaska legislature on this request during the upcoming legislative session.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth Gray".

Elizabeth Gray  
Acting Borough Manager

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## Public transit, less service

(02/19/11 17:29:19)

Eagle River bus rider Daryl Nelson, who has ridden both regular People Mover buses and the AnchorRides door-to-door service for seniors and people with disabilities, says what's left in Eagle River isn't enough.

In mid-2009, one-third of the Eagle River local bus service was cut. In March 2010, Routes 76 and 78, the last routes left to circulate around Eagle River, were eliminated to save \$478,000.

In their place, the People Mover began a service called Eagle River Connect -- a service people can call for pickup at their residence. It uses the AnchorRides buses, and it is open to the general public.

Nelson, who has some disabilities, likes the idea of it, but said to go from his North Birchwood home to a noon meeting at Denny's on Bragaw Street and DeBarr Road, he would have to leave the house at 7 a.m. "I would have to be hanging out at Denny's for three hours," he said. Sometimes he can't even get on the Connect bus to go wherever he wants to go because space is limited.

What's needed? "More buses and more drivers," he said.

In another cutback, the city plans at the end of the month to drop a second bus route to Mountain View, 45G, meant to relieve crowding on the regular Route 45 to Mountain View.

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## Nancy Barnes

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**From:** Amanda Neal [ilobhomer@peninsulailc.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 22, 2011 10:40 AM  
**To:** Sen. Albert Kookesh  
**Subject:** SB 77

February 22, 2011/ Fax 465-2827

The Honorable Albert Kookesh  
State Senator  
Alaska State Capitol  
Juneau, AK. 99801

Dear Senator Kookesh:

On behalf of the Homer Coordinated Transportation Program, I would to express my support for SB 77 (State funding for Public and Community Transportation in Alaska). SB 77 calls for appropriating up to \$3 million to help communities match up to \$12 million in federal public transits dollars.

Alaska is one of just three states that do not provide general operating support for transit service. Public and Community transit programs provide transportation for thousands of Alaskans every day who go to work, school and medical appointments. Many of the passengers we work with could not fully participate in the community without bus service. This is not just a function of local taxpayers; all Alaskans benefit by reducing traffic on Alaska's roads and highways and increasing air quality standards statewide. We believe that a partnership between the state, community and public transportation providers is long overdue and will benefit all road users around the state.

Thank you for your efforts in supporting transit in Alaska. I look forward to working with you and the Alaska legislature on this request during the upcoming legislative session.

Sincerely,

Amanda Neal  
The Independent Living Center  
P.O. Box 2474  
Homer, AK 99603  
1-907-235-7911

Amanda Neal  
Vision & Independent Living Services  
Independent Living Center

P.O. Box 2474

Homer, AK 99603

1-800-770-7911

1-907-235-7911

1-907-235-6236 (Fax)

[ilobhomer@peninsulailc.org](mailto:ilobhomer@peninsulailc.org)

 Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

## Nancy Barnes

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**From:** Lolita Brache [lolitagrace@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 22, 2011 11:58 AM  
**To:** Sen. Albert Kookesh  
**Cc:** Sen. Gary Stevens  
**Subject:** SB 77

The Honorable Albert Kookesh  
State Senator  
Alaska State Capitol  
Juneau, AK. 99801

February 22, 2011

Dear Senator Kookesh:

I would like to express my support for SB 77 (State funding for Public and Community Transportation in Alaska). SB 77 calls for appropriating up to \$3 million to help communities match up to \$12 million in federal public transit dollars. Homer does not have any affordable public transportation system. I know of many families who struggle to get to work, to appointments, to school, because cab rides are so expensive when one has to use them for everything.

Alaska is one of just three states that do not provide general operating support for transit service. This is not just a function of local taxpayers. All Alaskans benefit by reducing traffic on our roads and highways and increasing air quality. We believe that a partnership between the state, community and public transportation providers is long overdue and will benefit both local communities and the state as a whole.

Thank you for your efforts in supporting transit in Alaska.

Sincerely,

Lolita Brache

PO Box 2508





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.

February 18, 2011

The Honorable Albert Kookesh  
State Senator  
Alaska State Capitol  
Juneau, AK. 99801


Dear Senator Kookesh:

On behalf of the Homer Coordinated Transportation Project, I would to express my support for SB 77 (State funding for Public and Community Transportation in Alaska). SB 77 calls for appropriating up to \$3 million to help communities match up to \$12 million in federal public transits dollars.

Alaska is one of just three states that do not provide general operating support for transit service. Public and Community transit programs provide transportation for thousands of Alaskans every day who go to work, school and medical appointments. Many of the passengers with whom we work could not fully participate in the community without bus service. This is not just a function of local taxpayers. All Alaskans benefit by reducing traffic on Alaska's roads and highways and increasing air quality standards statewide. We believe that a partnership between the state, community and public transportation providers is long overdue and will benefit all road users around the state.

Thank you for your efforts in supporting transit in Alaska.

Sincerely,

  
Laurie Deakins  
Medicaid Waiver Care Coordinator  
South Peninsula Hospital  
52818 Old East End Road, Homer, AK 99603  
907.235.0273

## Nancy Barnes

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**From:** Patti Boily [homeril2@peninsulailc.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 18, 2011 12:39 PM  
**To:** Sen. Albert Kookesh  
**Subject:** SB 77

Dear Senator Kookesh,

On behalf of the Homer Coordinated Transportation Program I encourage you to support SB 77 (State funding for Public and Community Transportation in Alaska). SB 77 calls for appropriating up to \$3 million to help communities match up to \$12 million in federal public transit dollars.

Alaska is one of just three states that do not provide general operating support for transit service. Public and Community transit programs provide transportation for thousands of Alaskans every day who go to work, school and medical appointments. Many of our citizens could not fully participate in their communities without bus or taxi service. We believe that a partnership between the state, communities and public transportation providers is long overdue and this bill will go a long ways towards ensuring communities are able to meet the transportation needs of their citizens.

As it so happens I will be in Juneau on February 22<sup>nd</sup> when your committee holds its hearing on this bill. If my plane is on time I hope to be able to attend your meeting in person.

Thank you for your efforts in supporting transportation in Alaska.

Sincerely,

Patricia A Boily  
4935 Clover Lane  
Homer, AK 99603  
(907) 235-7391  
[pbbaily@xyz.net](mailto:pbbaily@xyz.net)

Independent Living Center  
PO Box 2474  
Homer, AK 99603  
(907) 235-7911  
[homeril2@peninsulailc.org](mailto:homeril2@peninsulailc.org)

## Nancy Barnes

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**From:** Kim Burrows [reception@peninsulailc.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 18, 2011 10:52 AM  
**To:** Sen. Albert Kookesh  
**Subject:** To the Senate Transportation Committee re: SB 77

The Honorable Albert Kookesh  
State Senator  
Alaska State Capitol  
Juneau, AK. 99801

Dear Senator Kookesh:

On behalf of the Homer Coordinated Transportation Project, I would like to express my support for SB 77 (State funding for Public and Community Transportation in Alaska). SB 77 calls for appropriating up to \$3 million to help communities match up to \$12 million in federal public transit dollars.

Alaska is one of just three states that do not provide general operating support for transit service. Public and Community transit programs provide transportation for thousands of Alaskans every day who go to work, school and medical appointments. Many of the passengers with whom we work could not fully participate in the community without bus service. This is not just a function of local taxpayers. All Alaskans benefit by reducing traffic on Alaska's roads and highways and increasing air quality standards statewide. We believe that a partnership between the state, community and public transportation providers is long overdue and will benefit all road users around the state.

Thank you for your efforts in supporting transit in Alaska.

Sincerely,

*Kim Burrows*  
**Independent Living Center**  
**P.O. Box 2474**  
**Homer, AK 99603**  
**Phone: 907-235-7911**  
**Fax: 907-235-6236**