

02/28/13
Overview:
Veterans'
Transportation
Project

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Transportation Project</SUBJECT><COMM>HMLV28</COMM></TARGET>



Alaska Mobility Coalition's Veterans Transportation Project Update



**Presentation to the State House
Committee on Military and
Veterans Affairs – February 28, 2013**



Alaska
MOBILITY COALITION

- ❑ Alaska Mobility Coalition (AMC) is a private, non-profit member organization
 - 128 members from Alaska, Canada and the lower 48 states.
 - Represents public, private and community transit providers in Alaska .
 - Provides technical assistance to new and emerging Alaskan transit providers.



Veterans Transportation Project Beginnings



VTP/Voices from the Community

- ❑ Governor's Coordinated Transportation Task Force testimony from around the State stressed veterans' transportation needs
- ❑ Transportation Community
 - Military and transportation communities need to share information so that future transit grant proposals will better meet the needs of military and veterans
 - Transit providers need a way of being reimbursed for providing reduced fares to veterans
- ❑ Alaska VA
 - Eligibility rules make transportation unavailable to some veterans
 - Need partnership with public and private agencies to help those that are not eligible through VA

VTP/Voices from the Community

Communication across cultures

- Military organizational culture – “take care of our own”
- Members not accustomed to asking for help
- Military family information channels are not known/available to transportation providers

Demographic

- High percentage of vets are from rural areas infrequently served by transit systems

Funding

- Transportation providers pursue grant opportunities, historically not offered by DOD or VA
- VA-funded transportation services restrict sharing rides with non-veterans

Veterans Transportation Advisory Group

Statewide Members



Veterans Transportation Advisory Group

- + **TRANSIT PROVIDERS** -Vrides, People Mover Anchorage, and Capital Transit Juneau
- **GOVERNMENT AGENCIES** -Alaska Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and Alaska VA Healthcare system
- **STATE OF ALASKA** Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities and the Alaska Department of Labor, Employment Security
- **PRIVATE VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS** Armed Forces YMCA, Vets helping Vets and Alaska Veterans Foundation

Veterans Transportation Advisory Group

Activities and Progress To Date



Activities and Progress to Date

- ❑ **August, 2012:** VTAG members met with Alaska VA and national representatives from the Veterans' Transportation Service (VTS) Program
- ❑ **October, 2012:** VTAG Sub-committee presented a Roundtable Discussion at Alaska Community Transit Conference
- ❑ **February, 2013:** Teleconference presentation on Operation Vets in Public Transportation by Kristen Joyner from South West Transit Association

Alaska Mobility Coalition's Veterans Transportation Project Grants: Getting Alaskan Veterans to Work

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Access to reliable and affordable transportation is an essential ingredient to empower today's service members, veterans, and their families to participate fully and successfully in their communities and achieve economic stability.

*-Ray LaHood,
Secretary of Transportation*

- ❑ RFP released in December with deadline of Jan. 25th
- ❑ With funding provided by the Alaska DOTPF, AMC offered grants to provide public transportation for Alaskan veterans, active military and their families to assist them in getting to work
- ❑ Targeted applicants were eligible transit systems, military and veteran organizations
- ❑ Work to be completed by June 12, 2013
- ❑ One grant awarded to Alaska Department of Labor, Employment Security Division
 - Will provide bus passes and travel vouchers for work-related trips to unemployed veterans who rely on public transportation
 - AMC is leveraging additional funding for future grants