



9.0 Recommended State/Local Actions

State and Local Government participation in the transportation coordination process is considered vital to the development and implementation of the program. The Advisory Group was asked to make a list of action items they would recommend for the State and Local Government to facilitate transportation coordination in the Tulsa region. Below is the summary of the key recommendations:

STATE RESPONSIBILITY

- Encourage the Department of Labor to get involved in purchasing bus tokens as federal match, not entitlement program
- Propose legislation to create a state mandate for coordination by:
 - Allowing funding incentives for entities participating in coordination programs
 - Creating Transportation Block Grants that consolidate various funding sources and are distributed for coordination purposes
 - Providing per capita spending attuned to citizens in need

- Allocating state funding for coordinated transportation
- Funding pilot projects to demonstrate coordination
- Allowing pooled purchasing (fuel, insurance, maintenance, training)
- Designate a state-level body to oversee coordination in the state
 - Streamline state and federal billing procedures
 - Develop accounting, reporting, and funding standards among state agencies
 - Regulating award of vehicles and requiring accountability (proof of need)
 - Review Medicaid reimbursement rules
- Establish a program, similar to the Smart Card, that consolidates/ coordinates funding sources to create a universal pass

decreased local match for increased coordination, additional funds awarded on grants for coordination, financial assistance to private providers for purchase of vehicles, etc.

- Develop an education and awareness program for transportation providers, local hospitals and medical staff, all entities identified as consumers of transportation, and the public on the benefits of coordination and provide assistance and guidance on how to coordinate
- Identify a transportation contact in each state agency, informed about the transportation programs available and include that in the Providers' Inventory
- Distribution of Providers Inventory to state agency staff and local transportation consumers such as hospitals, medical facilities, churches, etc.
- Acquire dedicated funding for expanding transit service to include nights, weekends, and employment centers
- Expand the Providers' Inventory to include all transportation providers, including private for-profit providers and faith-based organizations

REGIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

- Participate in Oklahoma "United We Ride," which provides a statewide forum for following federal coordination guidelines.
- Create a regional authority of local entities that oversees implementation of service needs and would manage a central Mobility Management Center for the purpose of regional service coordination, including:
 - Collect and disseminates information
 - Administer use of pooled resources (fuel, insurance, maintenance, training, etc.)
 - Coordinate scheduling
 - Allow local entities to sustain control
 - Coordinate funding acquisition and distribution
 - Act as a one-call center that provides residents with information on available services and schedules
 - Allow private sector to compete for funds/ contracts if they can provide service less expensively
- Hold transportation summit to bring members together to discuss who in our community has unmet needs and what services are now available
- Offer incentives and rewards for coordination, such as: increased funding for increased capacity,

LOCAL RESPONSIBILITY

- Expand lift-equipped vehicles under the lift program
- Improve homeless, elderly & disabled access to existing routes
- Local governments and private entities provide funding to support coordination

The implementation of a transportation coordination plan requires strong cooperation among state agencies, with the development of a program of incentives to promote coordination at the local level. It is the goal of the Coordinated Transit-Human Service Transportation Plan to endorse and support the State, Regional, and Local actions recommended by the Advisory Group.

A local group composed of representatives from transportation providers, human service agencies, state agencies, and planning organizations should continue to provide guidance and directions for implementation of the recommended actions above. These actions will be pursued concurrently with the goals identified in Chapter 10.