

Joint Transportation Committee 2007-09 Studies

Special Needs Transportation Study (ACCT Study)

The Study:

SHB 1694 and the Transportation Budget direct the Joint Transportation Committee to examine the legal and programmatic changes and best practices necessary for effective coordination of transportation services at the regional level for persons with special transportation needs. This effort is to:

1. provide a comprehensive survey of existing services;
2. identify opportunities for improving coordination through a uniform system of measuring trip costs, provider billings, provider agreements and reporting, and sharing eligibility information and trip requirements;
3. make recommendations for improving access to customer services and integrating services of transportation providers and brokers.

The JTC will also address:

- federal and state funding and program barriers to improving state/federal program coordination and cost sharing;
- siting decisions for facilities serving persons with special needs;
- other models for coordinated special needs systems throughout the nation;
- non-traditional service providers to provide special needs services;
- the applicability of a decentralized broker system for special needs services, including the state's role in a decentralized system; and
- the role of the Agency Council on Coordinated Transportation (ACCT).

Study Oversight:

To provide study guidance, the JTC has established a Policy Group, which includes members of the Transportation Committees as well as members of the Ways and Means and Appropriations Committees, and serve on other committees whose issues relate to special needs populations. This Policy Group, which is anticipated to meet approximately four times during the study, will review study task reports and provide guidance and feedback on study recommendations.

Four meetings across the state involving stakeholders of special needs transportation services are also planned, two in May 2008 (Yakima & Snohomish counties), early in the study, and two to discuss findings and preliminary recommendations in September 2008 (Pierce & Lincoln counties).

The JTC contracted in December 2007 with the consulting firm of Nelson/Nygaard to conduct the study.

Time frames:

Draft report completed: Fall, 2008.

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