



## Ride in 55: A Coordinated Effort to Develop A Statewide Transportation Network



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# Ride in 55

55 Counties  11 Regions



1 State

Transportation Initiative

# Coordinated Transportation

**Transportation**  
– essential for economic development in West Virginia to maintain vibrant, sustainable communities

## Link to SAFETEA – LU

- Safety
- Affordability
- Flexibility
- Efficiency
- Transportation
- Equity
- Act

## Key to moving:

- People to work
- Play
- School
- Worship
- Healthcare
- Goods and services

# Why Coordinated Transportation?

- Connects citizens to communities and fuels the economy
- Contributes to an educated, healthier, productive workforce
- Enables growth in industry and economic activity
- Regional solutions foster complete and sustainable economics
- Providers flourish through efficient, maximum reimbursement
- Critical for Human Services agenda – you do not have to own and operate your own agency vehicles

# Who Provides Transportation?

## Major Providers

- ▶ Families
- ▶ Public Transit
- ▶ Senior Services
- ▶ NEMT

## Filling in the Gaps

- ▶ Non-profit agencies
- ▶ Health care providers
- ▶ Educational organizations
- ▶ Government agencies
- ▶ Faith-based organizations
- ▶ Private for-profit providers
- ▶ Work-force
- ▶ Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS)

# Who Rides?

## **People at or below poverty 17.1 % of WV**

- ▶ Zero vehicle households 10.8 %
- ▶ No transportation keeps people from work

## **People with disabilities in WV 410,781**

- ▶ No transportation keeps a viable citizenry from all activities in their communities

## **Senior Citizens 15.5 % of WV**

- ▶ Numbers will grow and increase the population with disabilities
- ▶ People need to stay connected to their communities

## **People who want to save rising fuel costs**

- ▶ Fuel costs continue to rise
- ▶ Many folks want to conserve
- ▶ Healthy living

# Ride in 55

Caucuses scheduled in 5 locations, combining 11 regional planning and development councils

Goal: Identify barriers and solutions to coordinated transit

## Participants

- Local leaders – elected officials, agency executives, community leaders
- Riders
- State and national industry professionals



# Barriers identified by Coordinated Transportation Plans

- Federal/state regulations
- Liability
- Turf battles
- Adequate number of vehicles
- Driver training/need drivers
- Funding
- Rough terrain
- Need more lift-vans
- Needs of dialyses clientele
- Physical limitations of driver
- No weekend or night service
- High overhead
- Last minute cancellations
- “Dumping” of clients
- Awareness of need or problem
- Inter-agency cooperation
- Incorrect information
- 50/50 funding match difficult
- Shared maintenance
- Levies and restricted usage



# Summit Recommendations

- ▶ Coordinating Council Enhancement – Enabling legislation
- ▶ One Stop Call Shop – state level office to provide information on what services were available
- ▶ Ride Transparency – Universal Ride Pass (e-z pass for riders)
- ▶ Coordination of Support Services – interagency contracts; bulk buying; language to allow coordination
- ▶ Study Resolution – 2010 Interim Session.
- ▶ Regional Focus – One-size doesn't fit all but need cooperation beyond county lines
- ▶ Educate Officials at all levels
- ▶ Fund pilot project – create a “success story” and share it
- ▶ Advocate for transportation as a component of economic development
- ▶ Data collection to measure outcomes and to validate effectiveness of coordination

# Implementation

**Leadership:** educate, distribution, meetings, work together

**Data Collection:** inventory, “living” document, moving forward

**Customer Service:** one-stop, technology, consumer pay system  
people first: elderly, people with disabilities, low income

**Funding:** creative, alternative, adaptive for greater mobility

**Transportation Service in-house:** training, insurance, moving safely and efficiently

# Contact Information

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