



New Jersey's Human Service Transportation Coordination Plan Project

I. PROJECT OVERVIEW

As the year 2006 came to an end, the New Jersey Council on Access and Mobility under United We Ride sponsored a one-day workshop on November 16th, 2006. This workshop was held to introduce to local stakeholders the Framework for Action - Community Self-Assessment process and to kick-off a county based community transportation coordination planning process in anticipation of the Federal Transit Administration's planning requirements needed to continue to secure Section 5310, JARC and New Freedom formula grant dollars as outlined in SAFETEA-LU (The legislation reauthorizing federal transportation programs). In April 2006, NJ TRANSIT and the New Jersey Department of Transportation asked each county to designate a lead person/point of contact for this planning process. Each county is also being asked to put together a stakeholder group which will be asked to do a community self-assessment using the United We Ride's FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION. Once that assessment is complete each county will be asked to create and/or revise and update a human services community transportation coordination plan.

Those plans will be submitted to key state agencies and planning organizations:

- NJ Department Human Services to qualify for DHS funded programs and NJT for casino revenue funds, FTA Programs.
- To the appropriate Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

II. PROJECT STRUCTURE

Each County are being asked to do the following:

- Designate a lead contact to work with the state in the development of a plan.
- Convene a team to develop a local action plan using the FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION and then update and/or compose a county transportation coordination plan addressing human services transportation coordination, specifically but not limited too casino revenue funds, FTA Section 5310, Section 5311, JARC and identifying possible new projects under New Freedom as well as TANF and other human services dollars.
- Conduct the necessary analysis to formulate a plan.
- Compose a plan.
- Submit a plan to the State and MPO's.
- Develop applications for grant dollars for FFY07 based upon findings in plan.

The State will do the following:

- Provide guidelines for the planning and implementation process which will include Transportation Coordination Plan outline.
- Offered a statewide T/A session on transportation coordination and planning (Transportation Coordination Plan Workshops were held December, 2005, April 2006 and November 2006).
- Disseminate resource material for transportation coordination.
- Allow for the maximum flexibility allowed of transportation dollars when a coordination plan is submitted. Seek and offer seed money for implementing innovative programs. Monitor the use of pilot projects. Work to waive or change regulations as necessary to facilitate coordination. Mandate that certain programs participate in the planning

process. Make necessary capital investments to facilitate the provision of coordinated transportation -- i.e. transit shelters, etc.

Incentives for counties to develop and implement a human services coordinated community transportation plan:

- Continued eligibility of FTA Section 5310 and JARC programs contingent upon development of plan.
- Requisite of eligibility for new FTA New Freedom Program.
- Satisfies planning requirements of state Casino Revenue Funds.
- Would identify potential projects for possible new grant dollars yet to be identified.
- Coordination effort offers potential to serve more passengers with existing dollars.

Program Administration and Oversight Options:

NJ Transit

- reps from other State agencies/MPO's assist in evaluating plans and pilot proposals
- reps from other departments assist in oversight, when necessary
- currently coordinates various FTA grants as well as the Casino Revenue Fund Program

III. STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPANTS: (sample and may vary from county to county)

County Paratransit Director

NJ TRANSIT Representative

NJDHS Representative

MPO

TMA serving the county

County Planner

County Human Service Director

HSAC Chair/Representative

Section 5310, Section 5311 and JARC operator representation

Other private non-profit operators of service

Municipal shuttle and paratransit operators

Private for-profit operators

Local WIB Chair

County WorkFirst Director

One Stop Career Center Director

Representative from the Single Child Care Entity

Representative from the County Administrator's Office/County Executive's Office

Office on Aging

Office on Disabled

Community College

Citizen Representatives from various Advisory Committee's

Other identified providers

IV. COMPONENTS OF THE COORDINATION PLAN

Self-Assessment – Local Action Plan

- After convening local stakeholder group hold a meeting to conduct a self-assessment of coordination using the United We Ride FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION.
- Develop a Local Action Plan from the assessment.

ELEMENTS OF A PLAN

- An assessment of transportation needs for individuals with disabilities, older adults, and persons with limited incomes on a countywide and regional basis (demographics and mapping);
- An inventory of available services that identifies areas of redundant service and gaps in service;
- Strategies to address the identified gaps in service;
- Identification of coordination actions to eliminate or reduce duplication in services and strategies for more efficient utilization of resources;
- Prioritization of implementation strategies;
- Criteria for evaluating success of projects implemented.

Background:

- Transportation Demand Analysis -- number of passengers; location of passengers; special mobility needs of passengers; location of points of origin and destination including child care facilities, work activity sites, medical facilities and jobs.
- Transportation Supply Inventory
- Determination of Gaps in Service

Target Populations:

- For whom will the coordinated transportation services be targeted? At a minimum the plan needs to address needs of older adults, individuals with disabilities and persons with low-income.
- Which programs will participate in the coordinated delivery of services?

Delivery of Transportation Services:

- How will transportation services be assured for all passengers? What is the menu of transportation services that will be used?
- Can a regionalized approach or inter-county arrangement be used to open up new travel opportunities? What kind of state, local, private foundation, private non-profit and private for profit resources can be utilized?
- What role, if any, can a broker play in your system to foster the goals of coordination?
- Can innovative ideas such as a mobility manager or travel concierge (one stop transportation information) serve the identified needs?
- What will a one-stop information center look like? Will a website be developed? What data would be collected and how would it be maintained?
- What role will public transit play in assuring the delivery of transportation?
- What role will van pools/car pools play?
- What role will feeder service to fixed route public transit play?
- What other mechanisms will be used to assure transportation to participants?