Ohio Department of Transportation

Transportation Services, Coordination and Mobility Management

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John R. Kasich, Governor • Jerry Wray, Director

www.transportation.ohio.gov
Overview

- Transportation Services
- Coordination
- Federal Funding Opportunities
- Mobility Management
- The Coordinated Transportation Plan
Transportation Services

What is a transportation service?
- Someone else drives
- Non-emergency

Targeted populations
- Seniors
- People with disabilities
- Low income

Fewer regulations than transit
How are Transportation Services Funded?

- Local levies
- State or local human services programs (mostly funded with Federal grants)
- Subsidies
- Riders
  - Fare, sliding scale, or full cost
Transportation Services = Prevention

Think of all the reasons why a person may not be able to drive himself or herself

Think of all the bad things that can happen to someone who can’t get around

Why does it seem like we have to wait for things to get “really bad” before we do something?
Transportation Services = Prevention

Think of the ways in which transportation can be a preventive measure

- Gets people to work → helps them transition off welfare
- Gets seniors to activities → keeps them safer and healthier
- Gets people to medical care → keeps them from developing more serious medical issues
“DRIVERS ONLY”
Be a Proactive Community

Should a community simply accept the disjointed nature of most existing transportation services?

Should a community wield any influence over transportation providers?

Do communities include transportation services when prioritizing resources?
Level of Transportation Services Provided

A community decision

- 24/7? 9-5, Mon-Fri? Every third Tuesday afternoon?
- Treated as a community asset ("lifelong community")? Or just as something for the "disadvantaged"?
- Pay full cost? Pay a share of costs? Pay a fare? Free?
- Coordinated strategy? Or every transportation provider for itself?
Problem

- There is no one agency/institution overseeing “the community”
- Solution: people work together to adopt a plan that details the community’s transportation needs and strategies for improvement. People then implement the plan and regular progress meetings are held.
Before Coordination...

- Multiple agencies provide transportation—some compete, others just coexist.
- Different rules, policies, eligibility, costs, amounts charged to riders, etc.
- Gaps in service.
- Getting a ride can require multiple phone calls, eligibility checks, etc.
Many Federal Programs can fund Transportation

- Medicaid
- Veterans Medical Care Benefits
- TANF (Ohio Works First)
- Capital Assistance Program for Elderly Persons and Persons with Disabilities
- Title III, Part B
- and 75 more (total of 80)
Federal Efforts on Transportation Coordination

- GAO 1977 report
- 1986 MOU between HHS and DOT created the Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility (CCAM)
- GAO 1999 report
- GAO 2003 report
- GAO 2012 report
How can you change existing transportation services to make them more effective and efficient?

- How often are buses and vans idle?
- Would carpooling and/or vanpooling work?
- What about volunteer driver programs?
- Are Federal resources used as efficiently as they could be?
Coordination

- Better resource management
- Working together
- Sharing
- Long-term process
- Political
- Planning
The goal of coordination is not to stifle competition.

Coordination should be a continuous process, always striving to improve transportation outcomes.

New ideas, new providers should be welcomed.
Getting Started

- Who are the community’s coordination partners?
- What do transportation services look like today?
- Where are the gaps in transportation service?
- What do riders want to see improved? (hint: ask them)
Coordination Partners

- Agencies/businesses that provide trips
  - Senior centers, ambulette, DD, etc.
- Agencies/businesses that rely on other agencies/businesses to deliver customers/clients
  - Large employers, clinicians, stores, etc.
- The public
Metrics

- Cost per trip/cost per mile
- Number of trips provided
- Number of vehicles
  - Vehicle age, mileage, passenger capacity, whether accessible)
- Survey riders for satisfaction
- Develop a snapshot of transportation “before”
Quantifiable Goals

- Decrease cost per trip average across agencies by 10%
- Increase number of trips provided across agencies by 10%
- Decrease average vehicle mileage by 10%
- Improve rider satisfaction by 10%
Costs to Begin Coordination

- Staff time, attorney to review contracts, etc.
  - Plan meetings, create surveys, communicate
  - Spread work among staff--select one person to be project manager

- Mobility manager
  - Salary, fringes, incidentals, plus legal work

- Consultant
  - Still requires some staff time, legal work

Choose one of the above
Coordination

- You don’t get $$$ to coordinate—but you could get $$$ if you coordinate and want to coordinate some more.
- If you already coordinate, the planning process provides structure and helps you discover “unknowns”.
- If you don’t already coordinate, this planning process is your beginning.
If you coordinate, you might get Federal transportation $$

- Specialized Transportation Program
- Ohio Coordination Program
Ohio Coordination Program

- Funds Mobility Management projects
- Projects must be included in a coordinated transportation plan
Mobility Management

- What is Mobility Management?
- What are its benefits?
- What are its core activities?
  - Understand & Advocate
  - Convene & Facilitate
  - Plan & Design
  - Deliver & Connect
- Eligible for Federal funding
Ohio Coordination Program

Funding

Administered by the State (ODOT)
Considered a capital cost—80/20 (Federal/Local)
Ohio Coordination Program

Who may apply for funding in Ohio

- Private non-profit organizations
- Public entities
Specialized Transportation Program

- Provides services for elderly individuals and individuals with disabilities
- Vehicles
- Technology
- Equipment (including Mobility Management technology)
**Former New Freedom Program**

**Beyond ADA Requirements**
- Targeted toward people with disabilities
- Program intent:
  - Improve public transit service
  - Provide transportation alternatives
  - Remove barriers

**Program is being integrated into the Specialized Transportation Program**
Specialized Transportation Program

Projects must be included in a coordinated transportation plan

Funding

Administered by the State (ODOT)
Capital - 80/20 (Federal/Local)
Operating - 50/50 (Federal/Local)
Specialized Transportation Program

Who may apply for funding in Ohio?

- Private non-profit organizations
- Public entities in areas:
  - Without non-profit organizations available to provide service
  - Lead in Ohio Coordination Program project
What are the REQUIRED elements of the Plan?

- **Assessment of available services**: who are the current transportation providers?
- **Assessment of current transportation needs and gaps in transportation services** for persons with disabilities, older adults and people with low incomes
  - Needs – Available Services = Gaps
- **Wish list of “stuff”** that will address the gaps and/or increase efficiency
- **Priorities**
Applicants have to certify that the plan was “developed through a process that includes representatives of public, private and nonprofit transportation and human services providers and participation by the public”.

Federal Requirements
Preliminary Decisions

- Decide on a Geographic Area
  - Region? County?
- Build Your Team
- Public Participation
- Adoption Process
- Update Process
- Find your “Champion”
Tools and Strategies

- Community Planning Session
- Self Assessment Tool–Framework For Action
- Focus Groups
- Survey
- Detailed Study and Analysis
Who are the Transportation Stakeholders?

- Area transportation planning agencies
- Coordination partners
- Passengers and advocates
- Others
Why Participate?

**Advantages**

- You represent your customer base, public transit or human service provider, in their quest for mobility choices
- Will assure that Federal funds are used for meeting the particular and unique needs of the residents of your community.
Why Participate?

Advantages, cont’d.

Resources are limited for everyone and increasing efficiency through coordination makes sense.
Resources

- Ohio Department of Transportation, Office of Transit—www.dot.state.oh.us/transit
Resources

- United We Ride & the Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility— www.unitedweride.gov
- National Center for Mobility Management— www.nationalcenterformobilitymanagement.org
Plan Status

Needs Plan

Large Urban (with plan)

Has Plan

Plan In Progress

Has Mobility Manager

Coordinated Transportation Planning [draft]
Takeaways

фа Community leaders should consider taking a proactive approach to improving transportation services

Transportation providers can coordinate, not just coexist

A coordinated transportation plan that meets Federal requirements can make a region/county eligible for more Federal $$
Questions
Contact Information

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