

ONE MPO's QUEST to Coordinate Human Services Transportation on a Regional Scale

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Session Overview

- Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs)
- Human Services Transportation (HST)
- Coordinated Transportation Plan (CTP)
- Planner-to-Planner Q&A

Inception of MPOs

- 1956 Federal Aid Highway Act
 - Established Highway Trust Fund
 - Interstate Highway System
- Alignments left to the States
 - Concerns about damaging communities
 - Led to “Freeway Revolts”
- Federal Aid Highway Act of 1962
 - To receive federal funds, urbanized areas have to plan (3C)



What do MPOs do today?

- Coordinate all federal transportation funding within a region
 - Highways (FHWA)
 - Transit (FTA)
 - Airport (FAA)
- Establish regional priorities
- Lead a public planning and participation process



Challenge: MPOs are mostly highway-focused

What about people who don't drive?

- Two distinct groups:
 - People who choose not to drive (Choice Riders)
 - People who are unable to drive (Captive Riders)
 - Elderly
 - Disabled
 - Low-income
- Getting 'captive riders' to life-line services
 - Medical appointments
 - Social services
 - Grocery stores
 - Employment

*This is Human Services
Transportation (HST)*

Who provides HST?

- Public Transportation
 - Fixed route
 - Shared-ride
- Volunteer/Non-Profit
 - Community groups
 - Human service agencies
- Institutional
 - Healthcare facilities
 - Retirement homes
- Private
 - Taxi/Uber/Lyft
 - Intercity/Jitney



*60+ providers
in SW PA
(that we know of)*

Who pays for HST?

- FTA
 - Sections 5307, 5310, 5311
- PennDOT
 - Lottery Program
 - Persons with Disabilities (PwD)
 - Fixed Route Operation/Capital
- Department of Human Services (DHS)
 - MATP
- Department of Aging
 - County Area Agency on Aging

**Are HST services
coordinated?**

Also hospitals, churches, employers, community groups, sheltered workshops, etc.

Coordinating Transportation

- Federal planning mandate

...federally assisted grantees that have significant involvement in providing resources and engage in transportation delivery should participate in a local coordinated human services transportation planning process...

- Tied to three FTA funding programs

- Condition for receiving project funding

- Projects derived from the Plan

Rationale for Coordination

- Improve transportation services delivery to meet human service client needs
- Maximize service efficiency and control the rate of cost growth
- Enhance the impact of all human services provided to our region's residents

Coordinated Transportation Plan (CTP)

- Responsibility of the MPO
- Planning Process
 - Assess and document transportation needs
 - Inventory available services across region
 - Identify strategies to address gaps
 - Document coordination actions for more efficient resource utilization
 - Establish competitive project selection process
- SPC and the SW PA CTP

MAP-21 and the CTP

- In 2012, MAP-21 repealed two of the three funding programs tied to the planning mandate
- Access to jobs/services remains an issue
- Planning mandate still exists

So, now what?

Latest Plan Development Effort

- Formed a highly-skilled project team
 - Consultants
 - Steering Committee
 - SPC technical staff
- Significantly stepped up public outreach
 - County-by-county, 200+ human service agency representatives
 - Stakeholder group meetings (The Alliance)
 - Phone interviews with 54 HST users

Major Plan Components

- Defined “Coordinated Transportation”
- Identified top 5 transportation barriers
- Put forth strategies for improving access

Coordinated Transportation

- Defined by The Alliance as...

an integrated network of transportation services that, through successful collaboration and resource sharing, provides affordable, reliable, and accessible mobility for all

Transportation Barriers

PUBLIC FUNDING

AVAILABILITY & ACCESSIBILITY

COST & AFFORDABILITY

PROGRAM POLICIES & REGULATIONS

EDUCATION & INFORMATION

What to Tackle First

PROGRAM POLICIES & REGULATIONS

STRATEGY

Broker a conversation between regulators, providers, and consumers to reduce barriers caused by program policies and regulations.

- Secure buy-in from SPC commissioners
- Invite lawmakers & advocates to join The Alliance
- Present CTP to PA County Commissioners Assoc
- Attend SW PA County Commissioners meetings
- Utilize public testimony options at public meetings
- Conduct webinars re: CTP

STRATEGY

Develop a coordinated regional voice to advocate for a common-sense approach to human services transportation (HST).

- Create an advocacy campaign
- Coordinate and facilitate idea-sharing forums around the issue of transportation access (Alliance meetings)

Challenges to MPO's Quest

- Transportation providers, human service agencies, government program administrators, and people in need
- What is the real issue here?
 - Transportation
 - Communication
 - Education

You decide!

Role of SPC in Implementation

- Difference between a “planning process” and a “plan”.
- What does “implementation” actually mean in this planning context?
- Partnerships, partnerships, partnerships – the concept of a “big table”.



Let's talk...

PLANNER-TO-PLANNER Q & A