



## **MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** February 14, 2007  
**TO:** PPACG Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Mary Frye, Transportation Planner  
**THROUGH:** Robert MacDonald, Executive Director  
**SUBJECT:** Human Services Transportation Coordination Study and Plan: Release for Public Comment

***ACTION REQUESTED: Approve Release for 30-day Pubic Comment***

### **SUMMARY:**

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) allocates funds for the provision of special needs transportation under several sections of SAFETEA-LU<sup>1</sup>. For transportation providers to be eligible to receive these funds, a locally developed, coordinated human services transportation plan must be prepared.

PPACG and the City of Colorado Springs participated in a joint effort to develop the Human Services Transportation Coordination Study and Plan. The study, which took place May through December 2006, assessed existing human services transportation provision in the Colorado Springs Urbanized Area, examined alternatives to better coordinate those services to address the needs of transportation disadvantaged populations, and recommended strategies for staged implementation. Through a consultation process that involved the Specialized Transportation Advisory Subcommittee and the public, the vision, mission, and goals for the study and plan were developed.

The document contains two planning components: the Jobs Access Reverse Commute Plan and the Implementation Plan for a greater level of coordination of human services transportation. The Jobs Access Reverse Commute Plan presented in Chapter 7 was prepared to enable the City of Colorado Springs to apply for a Federal Transit Administration grant to implement services that qualify for this source of funds. The Human Services Transportation Coordination Implementation Plan presented in the Chapter 8 describes steps for action, provides a suggested time table, and lists costs for each activity described in the plan recommendations.

The Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan proposes changes to enhance the planning process to enable the region to meet its human services transportation coordination vision, mission, and goals; proposed actions include the establishment of a Joint Call and Scheduling Center for specialized transportation services and further study of and planning for a transportation brokerage. Planning process proposals include that the City of Colorado Springs continue to be the designated recipient of Federal Transit Administration 5316 Job Access Reverse Commute and become the

<sup>1</sup> Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act- A Legacy for Users – August 10, 2005

designated recipient for Section 5317 New Freedom (a new FTA program) funds and that PPACG serve as the lead planning agency for these programs.

The draft Human Services Transportation Coordination Study and Plan Executive Summary is presented in Attachment 1 to this memorandum. The full draft Human Services Transportation Coordination Study and Plan will be available on PPACG's website starting Thursday, February 8.

**PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION:**

The PPACG Board of Directors approved funding for preparation of the Human Services Transportation Coordination Study and Plan in the Fiscal Year 2006-2007 Unified Planning Work Program. A member of the consultant team, Suzanne O'Neill of Nelson|Nygaard Consulting Associates, gave a presentation on the preliminary findings and recommendations of the study and plan to the PPACG Board of Directors at its October 11, 2006 meeting.

**BACKGROUND:**

Human services transportation refers to specialized transportation services provided to people who have transportation disadvantages: elderly persons, persons with disabilities, low income, and persons with other special transportation needs. Throughout the country, the type and level of transportation service can vary, depending on the needs of the clients, how the service is funded, and community values. In this region, these services are provided by Metro Transit, Metro Mobility, Silver Key Senior Services, Pikes Peak Partnership-Amblicab, Fountain Valley Seniors, Community Intersections, Teller Senior Coalition, The Resource Exchange, and other providers such as nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and churches/religious organizations. Services provided vary from fixed-route transit to curb-to-curb, door-to-door, and door-through-door, depending upon the needs of clients.

There are over 62 different federal programs and a number of state, local and private sources that fund these types of services. Recent Federal orders and legislation have required Federal agencies to work together to improve human services transportation. In 2005, SAFETEA-LU established a requirement for the preparation of a "local coordination plan" as a condition to receive several categories of Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding. According to FTA guidance, key elements of a coordination plan include:

1. An assessment of transportation need for individuals with disabilities, older adults, and persons with limited incomes;
2. An inventory of available services that identifies areas of redundant service and gaps in service;
3. Identification of coordination actions to eliminate or reduce duplication in services and strategies for more efficient utilization of resources; and
4. Prioritization of implementation strategies.

The coordination plan must be prepared through a process that includes the participation of representatives of public, private, nonprofit transportation and human services providers, and participation by the public.

PPACG and its partner in the study, the City of Colorado Springs, have worked for a number of years to provide planning support for coordination of human services transportation in the Pikes Peak Region. The regional transportation plan, for several editions, has addressed human services transportation through the Specialized Transportation Plan. The Public Transportation Plan, an element of the regional transportation plan and integrated into the City of Colorado Springs Intermodal Transportation Plan, addresses these needs as well. The Specialized Transportation

Advisory Subcommittee (STAS), a subcommittee of the Transportation Advisory Committee, is charged with providing input on planning matters related to specialized transportation, providing a forum for coordinating services, and assisting the City of Colorado Springs in monitoring and coordinating the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Paratransit Service Plan.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Consultant services for the study and plan development were budgeted at \$50,563. A second phase of the plan to facilitate implementation of the recommendations is being scoped at this time; however, no costs have yet been identified.

**STAKEHOLDER PROCESS:**

To prepare the Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan, PPACG hired Nelson|Nygaard Consulting Associates to conduct a study of these types of services in the Pikes Peak Region and to prepare a plan to address the FTA requirements for better coordination. The consultant team, which included Suzanne O'Neill and Rick Evans, interviewed specialized transportation stakeholders in the region to obtain multiple perspectives on services and issues. The consultant team also met separately with stakeholders serving the needs of low-income job seekers to get input into the Jobs Access Reverse Commute section of the study and plan.

The STAS invited representatives of community-based organizations and funding organizations to provide information and input into the study. The study was conducted from May through November, during which the STAS met seven times. The STAS and the consultant team also reviewed the findings of a study by Leadership Pikes Peak Transportation Alternatives Task Force. Information on the Human Services Transportation Coordination Study and Plan was provided at the series of public meetings held in September 2006 for the 2008 through 2035 Regional Transportation Plan.

Working components of the study and plan provided to STAS, the Transportation Advisory Committee, the Community Advisory Committee, and the PPACG Board of Directors have been published on PPACG's website throughout the study process. This memorandum and its attachments were provided on PPACG's website on February 7, 2007.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve release of the draft Human Services Transportation Coordination Study and Plan to the public for a 30-day review period.
2. Disapprove release of the draft Human Services Transportation Coordination Study and Plan to the public and instruct PPACG Staff and advisory committees to conduct additional work.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Specialized Transportation Advisory Subcommittee, the Transportation Advisory Committee, the Community Advisory Committee and the PPACG staff recommend that the draft Human Services Transportation Coordination Study and Plan be released for a 30-day review period.

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

Approve release of the draft Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan and Study for a 30-day public review period.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Draft Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan and Study Executive Summary