

COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR

DECEMBER 21, 2012

Purpose

In 2012, the Alaska State Legislature established the Community and Public Transportation Advisory Board (C&PTAB) within the Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF).

The Board is charged with preparing a strategic plan that includes the mission, objectives, initiatives, and performance goals for coordinated and community transportation in the state. It will also perform other tasks related to improving agency coordination and/or combining of services to achieve cost savings in the funding and delivery of community and public transportation services (AS 44.42.095)

The C&PTAB will build upon the considerable work accomplished by the Governor's Coordinated Transportation Task Force (CTTF) from 2009 to 2012, specifically the CTTF Final Report of February 2012 and the Coordinated Transportation Action Plan the CTTF included within that document.

The C&PTAB consists of 13 members who serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

Among its responsibilities is the production of an Annual Report to the Governor, describing its status, deliverables, and recommendations. This is the first such report.

Status

The C&PTAB convened its first meeting on October 22, 2012 in Anchorage, AK, in conjunction with the Alaska Community Transit Conference. It used the first meeting to

- Define itself organizationally through the production of draft Operational Guidelines and a draft Work Plan,
- Prioritize and assign action to the work outlined in the CTTF Action Plan,
- Identify informational needs,
- Elect a Chair and Vice Chair, and
- Describe its purpose and function to conference participants, surveying the group for their opinion about the C&PTAB proposed priorities and identifying who among them would like to participate on which of the C&PTAB's subcommittees.

Since then, the C&PTAB has conducted

- One teleconference, to secure a status report and support the momentum of the four subcommittees,
- One webinar, to help meet the informational needs of the C&PTAB, and
- Several subcommittee meetings, to do the work required to complete the priorities identified at the Transit Conference.



The C&PTAB will meet three times in 2013 and have eight teleconferences. These events are scheduled in the C&PTAB Work Plan. All meetings will feature a public stakeholder forum the evening prior to the official meeting. Forums will be designed to feature public stakeholder presentations and information-sharing; forums are a listening and learning opportunity for the C&PTAB.

Work in Progress

The C&PTAB elected Jeff Ottesen, DOT&PF-Juneau, and Patricia Branson, Transportation Expert-Kodiak, Chair and Vice Chair, respectively.

The C&PTAB studied the CTF Action Plan, discussing and prioritizing what to act on in the near term.

- Within the context of CTF Action Plan Goal 1, the C&PTAB seeks to **leverage state agency collective transportation resources**. The C&PTAB will update the federal and state funding picture produced by the CTF as completely as possible, and using that, begin the work of identifying new opportunities and barriers to coordination. Individuals leading this activity include Jeff Ottesen, Patricia Branson, Hugh Dymont, Cheryl Walsh and Nita Madsen. The product is a C&PTAB deliverable specifically identified in statute.
- Within the context of CTF Action Plan Goal 2, the C&PTAB will **develop shared statewide performance measures for human service public transportation**. The C&PTAB is reviewing existing successes state agencies are securing by using the Results Based Accountability (RBA) model. The subcommittee will explore how the model can enhance the work of coordinated community and public transportation. A presentation on the model is planned for the C&PTAB meeting in Juneau on April 2, 2012, with a follow-on discussion to brainstorm and work to confirm performance measures

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Jennifer Beckmann

Transportation Expert/Low Income
Kenai

Patricia Branson, C&PTAB Vice Chair

Transportation Expert/Senior Citizens
Kodiak

Douglas Bridges

Public/Non Profit Organization
Juneau

Hugh Dymont

Public/Lower Kuskokwim School District
Bethel

Camille Ferguson

Public
Sitka

Heidi Frost

Transportation Expert/Disabilities
Anchorage

William (Bill) Herman

Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority
Anchorage

Nita Madsen

Denali Commission
Anchorage

Duane Mayes

Department of Health and Social Services
Anchorage

Glenn Miller

Municipality
Fairbanks

Jeff Ottesen, C&PTAB Chair

Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
Juneau

Cheryl Walsh

Department of Labor and Workforce Development
Juneau

Carol A Wren

Tribal/Cook Inlet Tribal Council
Anchorage

that meaningfully track progress toward a coordinated community and public transportation system. The performance measures are key to being able to intentionally and measurably build the coordinated system.

- C&PTAB members involved with this effort include Heidi Frost, Duane Mayes, Carol Wren and Glenn Miller. Subcommittee members invited four additional volunteer stakeholders who indicated an interest in the

subcommittee's work at the October 2012 Transit Conference. These stakeholders are Tina Russell, Diane Schaffer, Leonard Barger and Judy Tymick.

- Within the context of CTF Action Plan Goal 3, the C&PTAB will **identify barriers to coordination respective to medical transportation**, including Medicaid, Indian Health Services, applicable Labor and Workforce funds, and others as appropriate. Medical transportation is the largest community and human transportation investment in Alaska, and securing the most efficient and effective delivery of medical transportation is key to the C&PTAB purpose and goals. The group will inventory the resources, identify barriers to coordination, and make recommendations regarding how to leverage medical transportation funding.

This subcommittee has convened a number of conference calls and has been reaching out to staff within Indian Health Services, Medicaid and the Transportation Research Board to inform the discussion. C&PTAB members leading this effort are Bill Herman, Camille Ferguson and Doug Bridges. The subcommittee has invited Connie Sipe, Executive Director of Center for Community, to join them. It is also reaching out to secure subcommittee participation from Division of Health Care Services on state administration of Medicaid funds and Indian Health Services on transportation expenditures.

A number of individuals expressed interest in this initiative during the Alaska Community Transit Conference, and the subcommittee will consult with those individuals at key junctures in the development of the inventory and regarding any potential recommendations.

- Within the context of CTF Goal 7, the C&PTAB **will pursue opportunities available through the use of technology, and Smart Cards initially**. The subcommittee has done some initial research regarding Smart Cards, and finds the technology potentially helpful

but expensive. Subcommittee members Glenn Miller and Jennifer Beckmann suggested C&PTAB take the time to identify specifically what data the C&PTAB recommends collecting in a similar manner across systems, and then find the correct technological tool to collect the data. It may – or may not – prove to be the Smart Card technology. C&PTAB will initiate this discussion as a follow-on to the Performance Measures presentation during its April 2, 2012 meeting.

Work on the Horizon

The C&PTAB has a number of other key tasks (AS 44.42.095), work on which is being initiated and for which the Board anticipates input and recommendations within the calendar year. Specifically, the C&PTAB is tasked to:

- *Analyze the use of alternative fuels, including compressed natural gas, liquefied natural gas, propane and biodiesel in community and public transportation vehicle fleets and make recommendations for the use of alternative fuel vehicles where cost effective.*

To that end, the DOT&PF will be issuing an RFP for a contractor to evaluate the use of alternative fuels and come back with detail and data to inform potential recommendations. C&PTAB will analyze this data when it is available and make recommendations as appropriate.



The C&PTAB is also tasked to:

- *Provide input to the DOT&PF Commissioner-produced comprehensive long-range plan for the development and improvement of coordinated community and public transportation.*

C&PTAB sought and received an orientation and overview of the DOT&PF's long-range planning responsibilities and schedule. Within that process, DOT&PF identified a number of key questions about which C&PTAB input would be particularly helpful, including the recommendation respective to the use of alternative fuels. C&PTAB is scheduled to submit this input to the planning document in fall, 2013.

- *Prepare and submit to the department and the governor for review a strategic plan that includes the mission, objectives, initiatives, and performance goals for coordinated community and public transportation in the state and make recommendations for improved agency coordination and combining of services to achieve cost savings*

in the funding and delivery of community and public transportation services

The CTTF Action Plan delivered to the Governor in February, 2012 provides the primary recommendations and strategies for coordinated community and public transportation in the state. Strategies in this plan, now prioritized and acted on by the CTTF, inform the development of more specific recommendations and actions to secure (rather than recommend) a coordinated community and public transportation system. By August 2013 the C&PTAB will update and focus the existing Action Plan, refining its direction based on the results of the work undertaken and described in this report, and generate an updated Strategic Plan as required by Statute.

The C&PTAB recognizes that securing efficiencies across state agencies and systems and tribal systems as well is difficult, but critically important work. The Governor's support of this work, and messages he sends encouraging state agencies to embrace the coordination effort, will be instrumental in helping the C&PTAB effectively achieve its purpose.

