

## Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

### 1. Is this an unfunded mandate?

*There is funding available to create a new plan. The next grant cycle for Planning Grants will start in November 2011. Up to 3 projects will be awarded for 1 year. The grant award amount is up to \$35,000. Eligible planning projects include developing a public transit-human services coordination plan, planning a new or expanded public transit system, or developing a coordinated services element to an existing coordination plan are priority for funding.*

### 2. Who can apply for a planning grant?

*Any non-profit or governmental entity is eligible to apply for a planning grant. Only one community coordinated transportation plan will be eligible for funding per community.*

### 3. Will the State Transit Office be sending out notification of grant opportunities?

*Yes, there will be online public notice, there will be an announcement on our website and an agency can request to be notified personally via [Gov Delivery](#)*

### 4. When are the open dates for grant applications for planning, start-up and mobility management?

*The grant applications for these three grants will be open in the first week of November. The grants will start in July 2012.*

### 5. What if there is only one human service transportation provider in my community? What if my community doesn't have a public transportation system? Does that make coordination not applicable?

*Most communities have clinics that can contribute monies for client rides, a governing body that can donate maintenance or fuel, cab companies that can provide discounted rides to persons with disabilities. Coordinated transportation can be provided in many "non-traditional" ways, and members of a coordinated community transportation system can come from the entire business community (such as Wal-Mart in Ketchikan and the cab companies in Homer) and that it is not necessary for there to be a public transportation system in the community.*

## 6. What is Coordinated Community Transportation?

*Coordinating transportation can be described in its simplest terms as a way to achieve better resource management among human service transportation providers. Coordination concerns the sharing of power, responsibility, management and funding. Obviously not an easy task!*

*The goal of coordinated transportation is to streamline and simplify access to transportation for those who are transportation disadvantaged such as the elderly, disabled and low income populations. This takes cooperation from not only the human service transit providers, but also the federal, state and local government agencies in working with the transit providers to overcome obstacles and barriers.*

*Whether we are talking about transportation coordination from a local, regional or a statewide perspective, it is not easy. It takes the right type and amount of people to get a strong commitment and start building a coordinated transportation plan. And as most states (and communities) have experienced, it takes time and a lasting commitment to coordinate so many different types of transportation services; especially in such a large and vast state as Alaska where much of the travel is by air and water to and from rural areas. Coordinated transportation is something that many states are and have been working on becoming successful at for many years.*