

# Special Needs Transportation Overview

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# Special Needs Transportation

- People with special transportation needs are defined in RCW 47.06B as people "including their personal attendants, who because of physical or mental disability, income status, or age are unable to transport themselves or purchase transportation."

# Special Needs Transportation Providers

- Transits
- Nonprofits
- Schools
- Transportation Brokers
- Private
  - Taxis
  - Cabulances
  - Intercity Bus

# Americans with Disabilities Act and Washington State Law Against Discrimination

- The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires public transit agencies that provide fixed-route service to provide “complementary paratransit” services to people with disabilities.
- General Service Information
  - 3/4 of a mile surrounding bus route
  - Same hours and days
  - No more than twice the regular fixed route fare
- To qualify for this service, it is usually necessary to submit an application, and may also require supporting documentation, an in-person interview and/or an in-person assessment of the applicant’s ability to use fixed route service.
- Washington State Law Against Discrimination is state version
  - Extends service animal definition

# Medicaid Transportation

- Clients who are traveling to a Medicaid funded appointment, may be eligible for transportation to be provided.
- 3 million trips in 2011
  - Down 12.5%
- \$74 million in expenses
  - 51% paid by federal program
- \$25 per trip

# School Bus

- 2007-2008 State Investment
  - Basic Program - \$153 million
  - Special Program - \$79 million
  - Capital - \$39 (one year)
- McKinney Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act
  - School of origin provides transportation to homeless students

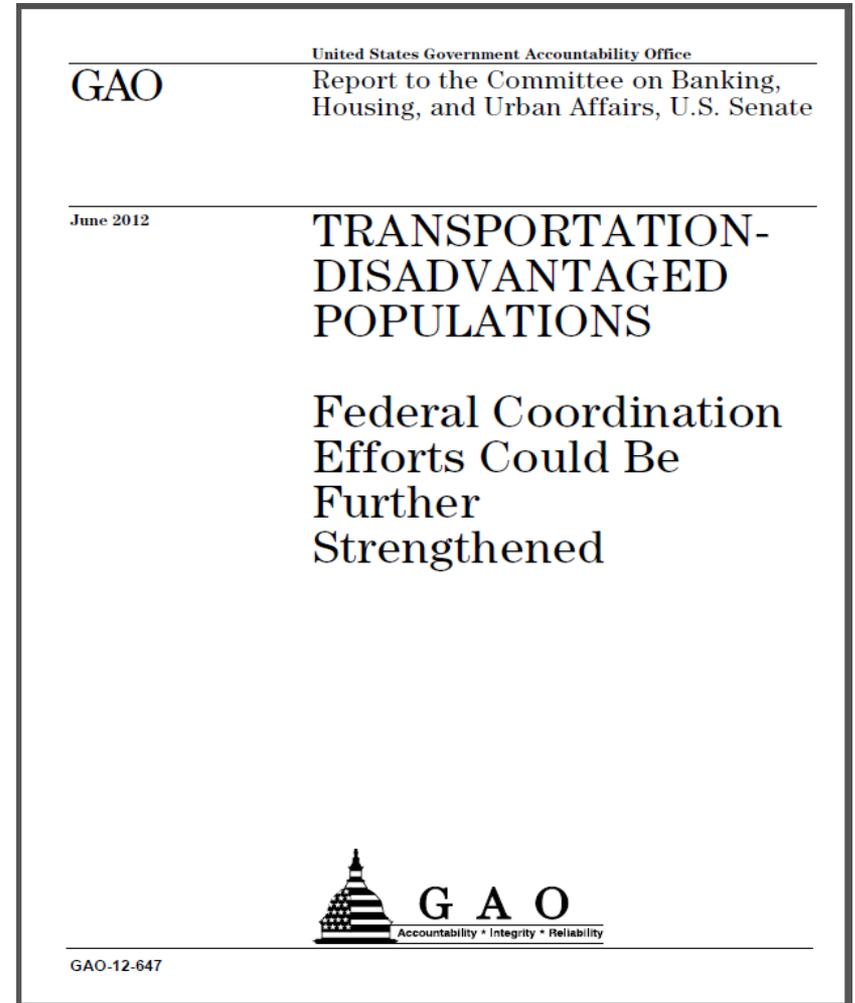
# Veterans

- Veterans Affairs Program Contracted Service
- Disabled American Veterans
- Information
  - Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative
  - Mobility Management

# 80 Federal Programs Fund Transportation

## Amount Unknown

- 7 Managed by USDOT
- 73 managed as part of other federal programs focusing on
  - Job Training
  - Education
  - Medical care
- Only 28 track the cost
  - \$11.8 billion in FFY 2010



# Coordinated Planning

## Agency Council on Coordinated Transportation

- Focuses on coordinated planning for people with special transportation needs
  - State Agencies
  - Transportation Associations
  - Riders Representatives
  - Legislators
- Enabling legislation expired in June 2012
- Council elected to continue on an ad hoc basis
- Recent Work of the Council
  - Veterans Workgroup
  - Human Service Transportation Planning
  - Federal Opportunities Workgroup

# Coordinated Planning

## Human Service Transportation Plans

- HSTP Federally Required
  - Common Origins
  - Common Destinations
  - Compare to Current Services
  - Strategies for Addressing Unmet Needs
- Currently Done by RTPOs
  - Each one does different things well
- Statewide Plan Under Development
  - Will provide best practices
  - Address cross jurisdictional issues
  - Set up RTPOs for the next cycle

# Federal Opportunities Workgroup

- Developed Cost and Ride Sharing Model
  - Transits and Medicaid Program
  - Federal Medicaid Program nonresponsive
- Paper Study Commencing
- Option to Create a Social Service Rate
  - Dallas recently implemented
- National Issue

# Questions?

For additional information on Special Needs Transportation,  
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