

Pierce Transit

Non-Emergency Medicaid Transportation *Identifying a Solution*

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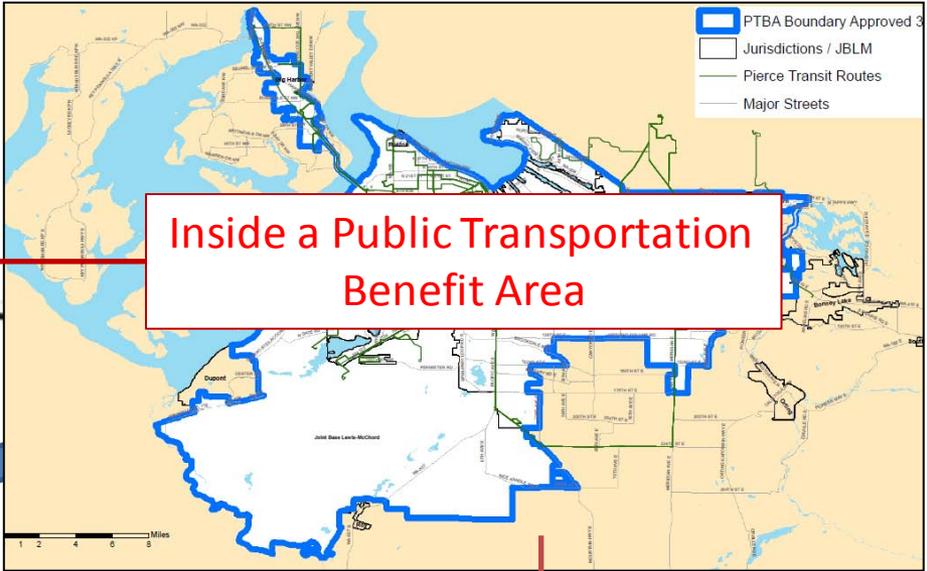
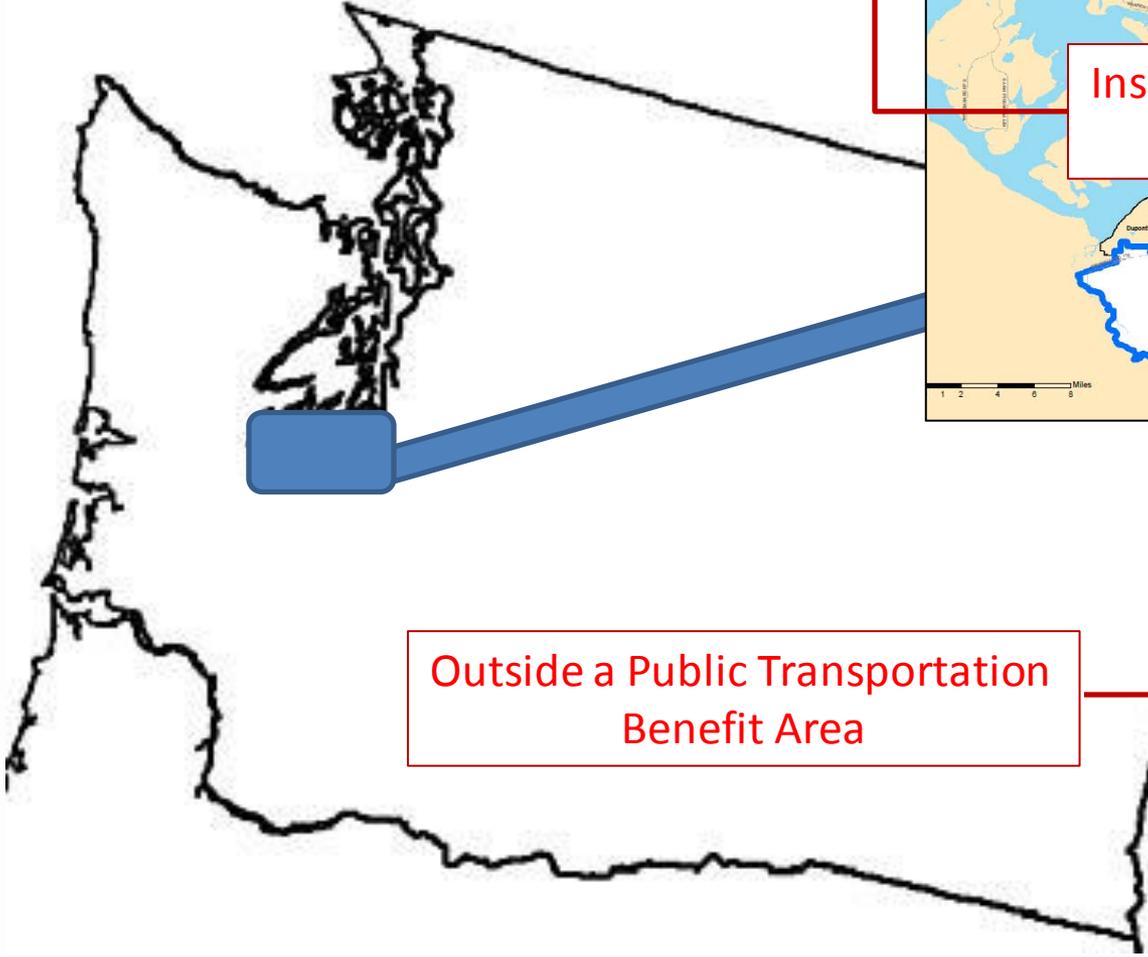
Non-Emergency Medicaid Transportation

State → Broker → Transportation Provider

State Reimburses Cost of Trip to Transportation Provider

- Medicaid is funded by state and federal funds in Pierce County.
- Instead, substantial NEMT trips provided within a transportation benefit area are subsidized with local tax dollars collected by transit.

**State pays cost of bus ticket
i.e. 75 cents**



**Inside a Public Transportation
Benefit Area**

**Outside a Public Transportation
Benefit Area**

**State pays for cost of trip
i.e. \$15-25**

Pierce Transit

- Average *one way trip* costs local taxpayers \$36.23(2010).
- In 2010, Pierce Transit provided approximately 167,623 paratransit trips for Medicaid appointments.

$$\begin{aligned} & \$36.23 \times 167,623 \text{ NEMT trips} \\ & = \$6.07 \text{ million} \end{aligned}$$

Potential Legislative Solutions

- **Cost Sharing:** A transit agency would get reimbursed (full/partially) for the actual cost of providing the service
 - Both Oregon and Pennsylvania have established agreements allowing cost sharing.
- **Requiring Lowest Actual Cost:** Require brokers to use the provider that has the lowest actual trip cost. In some instances that could be the actual cost experienced by a private operator or the local transit operator.

When Pierce Transit provides a NEMT trip, it consumes ADA capacity and the rider must meet more stringent ADA requirements. Brokers should not move trips to public transportation because of low fares requiring local tax payers to make up the difference for actual trip costs..



Thank you

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