

# **MOBILITY, ACCESSIBILITY, AND CONNECTIVITY**

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# DEFINITION OF THE ISSUE

- ***Virginia's Transportation Performance Report for 2007*** defines mobility as the “capability of moving people and goods from place to place”
- ***VTrans2035 Vision Report*** notes that goal statement for mobility, accessibility, and connectivity is to “facilitate the efficient movement of people and goods, expand travel choices, and improve interconnectivity of all transportation modes”



- ***VTrans2035 Vision Report* emphasized opportunities to improve mobility for groups with fewer transportation options**
- **Code of Virginia includes specific goal for addressing the transportation needs of people with limited mobility**

# DEFINITION OF THE ISSUE

- **Virginia's transportation agencies operate a multimodal transportation system that offers users a range of options**
- **Particular concern are issues of transportation accessibility for special needs populations, such as older adults, people with disabilities, and people with lower incomes**
- **These groups need a variety of mobility options that not only provide basic transportation, but also connect across jurisdictions and are accessible**



- **Meeting the Growing Need for Mobility Options**
- **Make Efficient Use of Existing Services**
- **Address Regional Accessibility**

- **Solid Foundation of Efforts and Activities**
  - **Public Transit**
  - **Intercity Passenger Rail**
  - **Transportation Demand Management**
  - **Performance Measures**
  - **Coordinated Human Service Mobility Planning**
  - **Stakeholder Input on Mobility Needs of People with Disabilities and Older Adults**
  - **Review of Funding for Human Services Transportation**

## Some Transit Trends

- **Between FY 2003 and FY 2007, transit ridership grew by 19% or 31.2 million trips (national growth trend of approximately 4% during the same period)**
- **The number of passenger trips per person on public transportation systems in urbanized areas continues to increase year over year.**
- **The number of vehicle miles of travel saved by customers of commuter assistance agencies has increased 25% in the last three years.**

## Interagency Coordinated Transportation Council

- **Established by DRPT in 2003 to promote interagency cooperation at the state level**
- **In addition to DRPT, consists of various agencies under the Secretariat of Health and Human Resources**



## United We Ride Report



- **Statewide inventory of human service transportation resources**
- **Unmet human service transportation needs**
- **Current levels of human service transportation coordination and relevant examples**

- **Virginia Department of Transportation**



- Traffic Impact Analysis Regulations require conducting analysis to help ensure connectivity between various transportation modes
- Localities are encouraged to include pedestrian, bicycle, transit, rail, and other modes in their comprehensive plans

- **Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation**

- Provides technical expertise (planning, project management, procurement, training, etc.) and financial assistance through an array of programs to over 175 agencies including: transit systems, railroads, human service agencies, commuter assistance agencies and planning organizations



- **Department of Transportation/Health and Human Services Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)**
- **State Support for Transportation for People with Disabilities**
- **Rural Transportation Planning**
- **Excellent Coordination Models in Virginia**

- **DRPT and the Interagency Coordinated Transportation Council's efforts are consistent with United We Ride, a federal initiative to improve the coordination of human service transportation**
- **Mobility Management**
  - **Strong emphasis at the federal level**
  - **Focus on the customers and meeting their needs through the coordinated use of a variety of providers**
  - **Virginia has begun to fund this strategy in some locations**

- **Help fill mobility gaps, support more effective connectivity, and ensure greater accessibility to activities and locations**
- **While inter-related with other initiatives, generally categorized by:**
  - **Filling Gaps in Service to Expand Mobility Options**
  - **Improving Connectivity and Accessibility**
  - **Implementing or Expanding Support Services to Enable Mobility**
  - **Addressing Infrastructure Needs and Other Issues that Impact Mobility**
  - **Utilizing Promising New Initiatives**

- **Expand the reach and frequency of transit services**
- **Expand paratransit services and go beyond traditional transit and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements**
- **Expand volunteer driver programs**



- **Implement Mobility Management Structures**
  - **Ensure most effective use of resources**
  - **Encourage connectivity between various modes and services**
  
- **Establish Single Point of Entry**
  - **One point of contact for access to a variety of different transportation services**

- **Ensure Safe Mobility for Older Drivers**
- **Implement or Expand Travel Training Programs**
- **Implement or Expand Taxi Voucher Programs**



- **Lower the Average Age of Transit Vehicles**
- **Address Land Use Issues**
- **Emphasize Transit Oriented Development**
- **Address Environmental Barriers**
- **Tie State Transportation Funding to Local Land Use Policies**
  - **Establish standards to ensure investment of limited transportation resources are matched with complementary local land uses**
  - **Manage congestion on limited access highways to increase the overall capacity**
  - **Establish a grant program for multimodal improvements that consider local contribution (monetary resources, land uses, etc)**

- **Promote Aging in Place**
- **Coordinated Human Service Mobility Planning**
- **Utilize Managed Lanes**
- **Support Car Sharing**