

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COUNCIL (RTCC)

Northwest Colorado Council of Governments

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Regional Mobility Management & One Call/One Click Center

The Regional Transportation Coordinating Council (RTCC) was formed in 2010 as a result of Rural Resort Region's focus - *Seniors in Our Mountain Communities: challenges and opportunities*. This project collected data on the growing senior population in our region and identified the gaps in services. One of the priority gaps was transportation, not just within a particular county, but in the public transportation options available to travel across county boundaries to access healthcare facilities and other services.

Recently, the Colorado State Demographer has projected increases in age 65+ population in the northwest region between the years 2010 and 2030 to be 50-75% for Jackson, 75-150% for Pitkin, and greater than 250% for Eagle, Grand, and Summit counties. While the initial efforts focused primarily on seniors, it is widely known that what is good for seniors is good for everyone. The RTCC acknowledges the challenges faced by seniors are also faced by veterans, low income, and disabled individuals.

The RTCC is the local coordinating council for an 8-county rural area of northwest Colorado and is working to improve transportation coordination and options, especially for the veteran, disabled, older, and low-income adult populations. The participating counties include Eagle, Garfield, Grand, Jackson, Lake, Pitkin, Routt and Summit. Additional counties to join this effort may include Clear Creek, Moffat and Rio Blanco.

The RTCC's efforts are focused on coordinating the existing public and private transit providers with other human services providers by promoting, enhancing and facilitating seamless access to transportation services through a coordinated system that is easily available to customers from anywhere in the region.

The RTCC has been awarded \$10,000 from CDOT; \$130,000 over 24 months from the FTA for the Mobility Manager position; \$322,600 over 18 months from the FTA Veteran Affairs (VA) for the One Click/One Call hardware and software; and \$50,000 in FASTER funds, all to develop a regional call center to coordinate transportation for these specific populations.

In 2012 a regional Mobility Manager will be hired to staff the RTCC and to work within the CDOT Intermountain and Northwest TPR regions. The Mobility Manager will work on the development of a One Call/One Click system, a regional billing mechanism which eventually will be able to bill all payor sources including Medicaid Transportation billing, and develop and maintain a regional services inventory, including both human services agencies and transit providers, along with a detailed gap analysis of the transit needs across the region to expand coordination of and access to existing and new resources.

All of the grant awards listed above come with requirements for matching funds. The Rural Resort Region has agreed to contribute their 2012 dues as matching funds. The RTCC will ask each of the existing transit agencies and human services transportation providers to contribute to match the grant funds. NWCCOG staff is working to identify the remaining funds needed to match the grants for the hardware and software needed to establish the regional call center. The expectation is that the Mobility Manager position and the call center will become self-sustaining.

For more information contact Liz Mullen or Jean Hammes at 970-468-0295.