

New Funding Expected for Regional Coordination Planning

The Public Transportation Division (PTN) anticipates the availability of up to \$60,000 per planning region to support regional transportation coordination planning activities from September 2008 through August 2009. PTN will provide a funding application packet in late March with applications due later this spring. Funding should be available September 1. To be eligible for funding, each lead agency must send a letter to PTN by March 14 indicating the intention to continue serving as lead agency in the regional coordination effort. Along with this letter, lead agencies also must provide a brief overview of priorities and planned action for the new funding period. Please read the [funding announcement letter](#) and [instructions](#). Contact Steve Wright at (512) 416-2811 or swright@dot.state.tx.us for additional information.

Workshops on Regional Coordination Set for July 23-24 in Austin

Several workshops and other information-sharing sessions on regional transportation coordination are set for July 23 and 24 at the [Omni Austin Hotel at Southpark](#). This two-day event is designed for lead agencies in the regional coordination effort and their partners. Agencies who intend to continue serving as the lead agency must attend. This event will feature nationally prominent trainers and presenters who will lead workshops on building partnerships, coordinated planning, using technology to promote coordination, and other topics. ([more info](#))

Schedules Set for Regional Forums on Health and Human Service Coordination

A [tentative schedule](#) is set for ten regional forums to be held around the state specifically aimed at strengthening local ties between transportation and health and human service agencies. Some of you have already participated in a conference call with Public Transportation Division (PTN) staff to discuss preparation for the forum in your area. If not, PTN will schedule a call with you soon. This intensive, interactive one-day forum will be led by professional facilitators and tailored to address needs in your area. This event will provide a unique opportunity to visit with persons from a wide variety of health and human service programs and identify ways to connect public transportation resources with people who need them - in particular, people with health and human service needs. Contact Steve Wright at swright@dot.state.tx.us or (512) 416-2811 for more information.

Partnerships Result in Nearly Quadruple JARC-funded Trips

Trips provided through the Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) program nearly quadrupled during just the first three months of operations in Bowie, Cass, Lamar and Red River Counties in Northeast Texas. JARC services began in October 2007 with 431 one-way trips. One-way trips increased to 1,567 in December, representing 927 individuals. "It's going gangbusters up here," said Linda Pugh, transportation manager for Ark-Tex Council of Governments (COG) Rural Transportation District, the lead agency for regional transportation coordination in Northeast Texas. ([more](#))

Upcoming Transit Conferences

There are two transit conferences scheduled to occur in the next few months in Texas. The first one, [2008 SWTA Annual Conference](#), is later this month, February 17-19, in Fort Worth. The second one, [2008 Texas Transit Conference & Expo](#), is scheduled for April 11-15, 2008 in Waco. If you're interested in attending one or both of these conferences, please go to their websites for additional information on how to register.