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MassMobility

Greetings!

We are delighted to release this inaugural issue of the **MassMobility** newsletter. **MassMobility** contains news of interest to anyone who is interested in community transportation, human service transportation coordination, or mobility management in Massachusetts. Whether you are a transportation provider, human service agency, or state or local official, we hope you will find this newsletter helpful.

This newsletter is compiled by the [Human Service Transportation \(HST\) Office](#) of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS), as part of our federally funded two-year grant to develop a [Mobility Management Information Network](#) across Massachusetts.

Are you new to mobility management?

Mobility managers help seniors, people with disabilities, low-income commuters, and other individuals identify transportation services they can use in their communities. They also build partnerships among transportation providers so that services can coordinate with each other to meet riders' needs more effectively and efficiently. [Learn more about mobility management](#) and how it can help you.

Meet the EOHHS HST Office Mobility Management Team

Tanja Ryden directs the work that the EOHHS HST Office does to [support mobility management and coordination throughout Massachusetts](#). **Theadora Fisher** serves as Mobility Outreach Coordinator, reaching out to encourage organizations to get involved in mobility management and coordination and to identify mobility managers' needs. As Mobility Information Specialist, **Rachel Fichtenbaum** conducts research and develops materials to provide information and resources to mobility managers around the state. We would love to hear about your mobility management and coordination efforts and needs and invite you to [contact us](#).

Helping Massachusetts residents live in their communities

Many Massachusetts residents would prefer to live in their communities than in institutions, but community life can be difficult for people who lack transportation. Mobility management can help individuals overcome this barrier and stay in their communities. For example, Maryanne is a young woman with a disability who lives on the North Shore. As her twenty-second birthday approached, she knew that she would be aging out of her educational program and would need to find a job. Prior to graduation, she was offered a position at a restaurant, but the restaurant was in an area that was

not served by public transportation. Fortunately, the One-Stop Career Center in her region - the [North Shore Career Center](#) - had already noticed that many jobseekers were having trouble getting to jobs in that area and had applied for funding to operate the [Employment Xpress](#), an employment transportation service for low-income individuals and people with disabilities. Thanks to the Employment Xpress, Maryanne has had the reliable, affordable transportation that she needs to keep her job and enjoy community life.

To read more about the Employment Xpress and how One-Stops can integrate mobility management into their work, check out HST's [mobility management resources for workforce development](#).

Community, Social Service and Paratransit Transportation Commission releases report

The Commission that formed in response to Massachusetts [Executive Order 530](#) has released its recommendations. The final report is available in the [External Reports section of the HST website](#).

Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century

On July 6, President Obama signed Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21). This new legislation authorizes federal funding for transportation for 27 months, through September 2014. MAP-21 includes some changes to programs that are important to mobility management: New Freedom was consolidated as part of Section 5310 funding, and Job Access and Reverse Commute projects are consolidated into funding through Sections 5307 and 5311. CTA has developed a [summary and analysis](#) and [list of links to commentaries](#). The FTA also offers [more details](#).

Transportation Coordination teams continue their momentum

In 2009, [Work Without Limits](#) partnered with the [Community Transportation Association of America](#) to convene a three-day [Transportation Coordination Institute](#). Multi-sector teams from nine communities across Massachusetts participated and developed action plans to help meet transportation needs in their communities. Six of the teams have remained active and involved in the Work Without Limits network over the intervening three years. In April, nearly fifty people attended the fifth bi-annual meeting of these teams to share updates and discuss travel instruction, vehicle share, advocacy and stakeholder engagement, and online rider tools. The sixth bi-annual meeting is coming up on October 26. [Contact us](#) for more information.

National report highlights transportation coordination in Massachusetts

In March, the Center for Workers with Disabilities published [Improving Human Services Transportation: The](#)

[Massachusetts Brokerage and Coordination Model](#). This report describes the brokerage model that the EOHHS HST Office uses to manage Medicaid transportation and other state-funded transportation services and also discusses the Massachusetts Institute for Transportation Coordination held in 2009.

Upcoming events and funding opportunities

HST has launched a [calendar](#) of mobility management events and funding opportunities for Massachusetts.

We want to know your stories

If you have suggestions for news items or topics to cover in future newsletters, please [contact us](#). Comments, questions, and feedback are also welcome.

Please share this newsletter

Please forward this newsletter widely to others who are interested in mobility management, community transportation, or related topics and encourage them to [subscribe](#) to receive future newsletters and publications.
