



GAINING *Momentum*

ALASKA MOBILITY COALITION 2008 - 2009

ANNUAL REPORT

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Transit Advocate:

As the executive director of the Alaska Mobility Coalition (AMC), I thank you for your interest in and support of community and public transportation in Alaska.

The past year was full of momentum for AMC. Among the highlights was the creation of the Governor's Coordinated Transportation Task Force, which marked the first time in recent years that the State of Alaska has looked into the role of public and community transportation in the state.

AMC was also involved on several fronts with federal and state advocacy efforts. Thanks to the support of Alaska's congressional delegation, AMC was awarded \$570,000 for capital transit projects in Alaska. We're currently working with other partners to develop a plan of action for projects throughout the state.

We also worked to support former Gov. Sarah Palin's \$1.1 million funding request for capital and operating funds for Alaska's

transit providers, and we introduced legislation that would fund public and community transportation into the future by establishing the Alaska Community Transportation Trust Fund.

In the coming year, AMC will be working with its members on projects including a public awareness campaign, alternative fuel transit vehicle project, transit technology project, and the AMC/Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (AKDOTPF) work transportation project.

I invite you to read more about each of our 2008 - 2009 successes and our 2009 - 2010 opportunities later in this annual report. And if public and community transportation in Alaska is important to you, I encourage you to visit www.alaskamobility.org or contact us at 907.240.2702 or alaskamc@gmail.com.

David M. Levy
AMC Executive Director



AMC: WHO WE ARE

Founded in 2002, AMC is a private, nonprofit membership organization that represents and advocates for public and community transportation in Alaska. AMC's mission is to achieve mobility through community-appropriate transportation services. AMC works toward this mission by:

- Advocating in Juneau and Washington, D.C. for capital and operating funding for Alaska transit providers.
- Promoting safe and cost-effective transportation that meets local, regional and statewide needs.
- Promoting sustainable, coordinated transportation in the state.

Currently, AMC has 65 members across the state, including public, private, tribal and human service transportation providers and transit advocates. AMC members provide nearly seven million rides annually for Alaskans to get to work, school, recreation opportunities, shopping and medical appointments.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD



Dear Friends of AMC:

2008 – 2009 has been a year of growth and opportunity for AMC. Our membership has nearly doubled in size from 39 to 65 members, who are located across the state, from Delta Junction to Prince of Wales Island.

Last October, former Gov. Palin signed an administrative order creating the statewide Governor's Coordinated Transportation Task Force. I was appointed, along with several other AMC members and representatives from state and federal agencies, to develop recommendations on how federal, state, tribal and local governments, as well as nonprofit organizations, can work together to reduce the barriers to coordinated transportation in Alaska.

The growth in public and community transportation in Alaska is tremendous. As communities around the state struggle with declining revenues and increasing demand for transportation, the State of Alaska

has a defining role in directing transportation in the future. We at AMC believe it is time for the state to put an investment in public transportation, which is why we are advocating for the establishment of the Alaska Community Transportation Trust Fund. This is one of AMC's top priorities for the upcoming 2010 legislative session, and we will be working closely with our membership to advocate with Gov. Sean Parnell and the Alaska legislature.

More about the task force, the trust and other AMC efforts is included in this annual report, and we hope you enjoy reading about AMC's exciting momentum. Thanks again for your support of AMC.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Beckmann
President, AMC Board of Directors



2008 – 2009 AMC
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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GAINING MOMENTUM: OUR YEAR IN REVIEW



AMC and public and community transportation in Alaska gained a lot of momentum during the past year. Highlights included:

GOVERNOR'S COORDINATED TRANSPORTATION TASK FORCE

On October 14, 2008, former Gov. Palin signed an administrative order on coordinated transportation in Alaska, which directed federal, state, tribal governments and nonprofit agencies to work together to reduce the barriers to coordinated transportation in urban and rural communities across Alaska. The order also created the Governor's Coordinated Transportation Task Force, which was charged with developing strategies and recommendations on implementing coordinated transportation in Alaska. After a series of meetings throughout 2009, including meetings with transit providers and advocates in Juneau, Anchorage and Bethel to discuss issues of local concern, the task force will release its draft report in October and a final report is expected in December 2009.

2008 ALASKA TRANSIT CONFERENCE

The 2008 Alaska Transit Conference, held in partnership with the AKDOTPF, took place in Anchorage on October 13 - 15, 2008. The highlights of the annual conference included:

- The release of former Gov. Palin's administrative order on coordinated transportation.
- The State of Alaska and Municipality of Anchorage proclamations declaring October 13 - 17 Community Transportation Week.
- U.S House of Representatives candidate forum.
- Presentation of the 2008 Max Lyon award winners.

FUNDING FOR CAPITAL TRANSIT PROJECTS

The Federal Transit Administration awarded AMC \$570,000 for capital transit projects in Alaska. AMC staff is currently working with the AKDOTPF and AMC members to develop an action plan for capital transit projects throughout the state. The FY 2009 projects will be determined by July 2010.

SUPPORT OF ALASKA TRANSIT FUNDING

AMC worked with the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education and the AKDOTPF to support former Gov. Palin's funding request of \$1.1 million in capital and operating funds for Alaska's transit providers.



ON A ROLL: PLANS FOR THE COMING YEAR

AMC will be working with its members on the following projects in the upcoming year:

AMC PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

AMC awarded Transit Marketing of Tucson, Ariz. a contract to develop a statewide public transit awareness campaign. The campaign will focus on the positive benefits of public and community transportation in Alaska, and materials will be distributed via radio, print, Web site and bus advertising in 2009. The second phase of the campaign will incorporate television advertising and will be released in 2010.

ALASKA COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION TRUST FUND

During the 2009 Alaska legislative session, AMC presented draft legislation that would create the Alaska Community Transportation Trust Fund. The fund would provide long-term state operating and capital funds for public and community transportation in Alaska. It would also create an advisory board to manage the fund, as well as report to the governor and the Alaska legislature on the activities and impact of the fund. AMC and transportation advocates from around the state will continue efforts to get the proposed legislation adopted into law during the 2010 legislative session.

ALTERNATIVE FUEL TRANSIT VEHICLE PROJECT

AMC, in cooperation with the AKDOTPF, will purchase alternative fuel transit vehicles (hybrid, bio-diesel or natural gas) to operate in two Alaska rural communities. Grantees should be announced by the end of the year, and the vehicles should be available in spring 2010. AMC will then monitor how the vehicles operate in Alaska's challenging weather and road conditions.

TRANSIT TECHNOLOGY PROJECT

AMC, along with the AKDOTPF and ITS Alaska Chapter, will work to distribute funding for transit software and hardware. The funding requirements and projects will be based on recommendations from AKDOTPF's year-long transit technology study, conducted by Athey Creek Consultants.

AMC/AKDOTPF WORK TRANSPORTATION PROJECT

AMC will work with AKDOTPF to fund small, innovative, work-related transportation projects and activities throughout the state. An official announcement, including funding and project guidelines, will be available at the Alaska Transit Conference in October.



AARP ALASKA



AARP, which joined AMC one year ago, is a nonprofit, nonpartisan membership organization that provides information, advocacy and services to help people 50 and over improve the quality of their lives. Founded in 1958, AARP has grown to 40 million members nationwide, including 97,000 members in Alaska.

Promoting mobility options, including public transportation, contributes directly to AARP's social impact goals.

"With greater mobility options, people are able to maintain their independence, choice and control as they age. Aging 'successfully' means having travel choices to stay connected to family, friends and services to thrive in a safe and comfortable community," said Jay Dulany, who serves as AARP Alaska's volunteer policy adviser on mobility issues.

For Dulany, a partnership between AARP Alaska and AMC was a natural fit.

"Both organizations seek the same goals for their members," he said. "Mobility is a huge issue for AARP members as they age. Just as AMC promotes mobility, AARP advocates for mobility options and safe driving. People of all ages, including older Alaskans, should have the ability to get where they need to go safely."

"The Coalition's work turns awareness into advocacy and ultimately into action, which benefits all Alaskans," he added.

Public transportation is important to the future of Alaska because of the state's aging population, according to Dulany. Fluctuating gas prices are another reason Alaskans should pay attention to and support public transportation.

"Ridership increases substantially when gas prices go up and, for anyone on a fixed income, the availability of public transportation is critical," Dulany said.

To learn more about AARP Alaska, visit www.aarp.org/ak or call 866.227.7447.

ALASKA VILLAGE INITIATIVES

Alaska Village Initiatives (AVI) is a nonprofit, membership-based company dedicated to improving the well-being of rural Alaska communities, families and individuals through economic development, assistance, networking, advocacy and education.

The corporation, formerly known as Community Enterprise Development Corporation of Alaska, was formed in 1968 to create new economic activities in distressed communities. Today, AVI has more than 170 member organizations, which represent more than 50,000 rural Alaskans.

According to Charles Parker, AVI's president/CEO, transportation issues are important to AVI because "As Alaska grows, moving people efficiently is critical to our economy and our environment."

The company decided to join AMC as a member two years ago.

"Alaska Village Initiatives is focused on economic issues in rural Alaska. AMC provides critical transportation resources in our members' communities, which provides a significant economic benefit," Parker said.

Since becoming a member, AVI has seen the benefits of AMC membership first-hand.

"Alaska Village Initiatives has partnered with AMC on several projects and the flow of information that AMC provides regarding transit issues in the U.S. and Alaska is very valuable," Parker said.

"AMC is a great resource for funding opportunities, legislative updates, information regarding training coordination among different systems in the state, as well as providing leadership on policy issues," he added.



To learn more about AVI, contact 907.274.5400, 1.800.478.2332,
info@akvillage.com or www.alaskavillageinitiatives.com.

GLACIER VALLEY TRANSIT



Glacier Valley Transit (GVT), a member of AMC since 2007, operates a year-round transportation busing system with fixed route service in Girdwood, Alaska. GVT also provides Dial-a-Ride Transit (DART), a flexible bus service designed to meet the needs of people who are prevented from using the regular GVT routes, including senior citizens and those with disabilities.

Like other public transportation providers, GVT benefits its community in many ways. GVT provides an affordable and reliable transportation choice that helps reduce traffic, increase economic activity, and allows drivers to save money, while enhancing the mobility of the entire community and contributing to its economic vitality.

“I think public transportation is important for the future of Alaska for the same reasons people should support it. Not only is it extremely economical, it helps lessen congestion on roads and, in turn, is good for the environment. This will help keep Alaska’s future and people’s pockets green!” said Brett Bitner, GVT operations manager.

Bitner said GVT joined AMC for the networking opportunities.

“I like how they bring us together. They work with each agency individually, as well as coordinating us to meet and work together,” he said. “AMC offers great overall support to our agency, and was not only a great help in the beginning, but throughout GVT’s 2+ years.”

To learn more about GVT, contact 907.382.9908, info@glaciervalleytransit.com or www.glaciervalleytransit.com.

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES & SPECIAL EDUCATION

The Governor's Council on Disabilities & Special Education works to improve the quality of life of Alaskans with disabilities through capacity building, systems change and advocacy. The 28-member Council is responsible for planning, monitoring and advocating with and for Alaskans with significant disabilities, and collaborates with a wide variety of stakeholders to improve service delivery systems.

For the Council, which is a founding member of AMC, public and community transportation is a vital part of improving the quality of life of Alaskans with disabilities.

"The availability of accessible, affordable transportation is a major need of Alaskans with disabilities," said Millie Ryan, executive director of the Council. "Without a strong public/community transportation system, the ability of people with disabilities, seniors, low-income people and other Alaskans without personal transportation to be productive, contributing members of their communities is extremely difficult."

Through its involvement with AMC, Ryan said the Council has reaped benefits including coordinated advocacy efforts and important information about transportation issues and strategies.

"The Alaska Mobility Coalition is a broad-based coalition, which is focused solely on community transportation and transit. By joining with AMC, the Council and other transportation stakeholders and advocates are likely to see change that benefits all Alaskans," said Ryan, who is also an individual member of AMC.

"No one entity can accomplish what AMC is able to do; by harnessing the talents, resources, experience and expertise of its members, we are more likely to see increased funding for community transportation and transit operations and capital purchases, and policy that reinforces the need for coordination of existing resources and funding," she added.



To learn more about the Council, contact 907.269.8990, 1.888.269.8990,
marilee.rivas@alaska.gov or www.hss.state.ak.us/gcdse/.

MAT-SU SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS



Mat-Su Services for Children and Adults (MSSCA) is a Valley-based nonprofit corporation that provides a wide range of home- and community-based services for adults with developmental disabilities, families with children experiencing developmental delays or disabilities, and parents with questions about child development and/or child safety. Formed in 1985, MSSCA's mission is to enter into partnerships with individuals and families, offering, coordinating and delivering support services, and building a community that promotes dignity, independence and cultural integrity.

As part of its array of services, MSSCA uses its fleet of more than 30 vehicles to provide individualized and small group transportation to more than 200 Valley residents with developmental disabilities.

“From my perspective, community transit is key to a better quality of life for a growing number of Alaskans. The cost of purchasing, maintenance and fuel to operate a motor vehicle is out of the reach

of many Alaskans,” said John Cannon, MSSCA executive director. “Seniors represent the fastest growing segment of Alaska’s population and a growing number cannot or will not be able to drive. Policy makers, planners and all Alaskans need to pay attention to the ‘grey tsunami’ that is coming.”

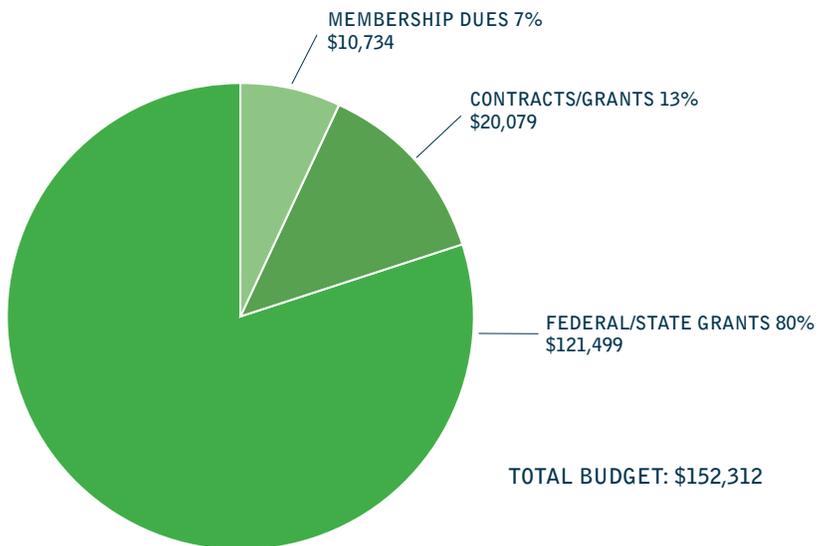
MSSCA became a member of AMC two years ago as a way to promote and improve coordinated transportation. Cannon said AMC membership has offered benefits including public policy information relative to coordinated transportation on the federal, state and local level; information and networking opportunities for advocates and providers; and information regarding current topics and trends in coordinated transportation.

“AMC also plays a significant role in Alaska by keeping transit providers and key stakeholders informed about key legislative developments and capital and operating funding opportunities,” Cannon added.

To learn more about MSSCA, contact 907.352.1200, mssca@mssca.org or www.mssca.org.

FINANCIALS

AMC BUDGET 2008 - 2009



FEDERAL AND STATE GRANTS

AMC receives Job Access Reserve Commute (JARC) funds from the Federal Transit Administration through the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (AKDOTPF) to promote information and outreach on work-related transit issues in Alaska. Also, the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority (AKMHTA) provides a local match for the JARC funds. This match enables AMC to expand its transit outreach and information services across Alaska, to the benefit of AKMHTA beneficiaries.

CONTRACTS/GRANTS

AMC contracted with the AKDOTPF to organize the annual statewide transit conference; develop a site monitoring tool for 5311 grantees; and assisted with the start-up of the Governor's Coordinated Transportation Task Force.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

AMC is a statewide membership organization. In 2008 - 2009, AMC had 65 dues-paying members in Alaska and the lower 48.



THANKS FOR GETTING ON BOARD



AMC extends deep gratitude to its generous funders and partners, as well as to its membership and board of directors for their ongoing support of public and community transportation in Alaska.

MAJOR FUNDERS

- Federal Transit Administration
- Alaska Department of Transportation
- Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority

2008 – 2009 MEMBERS

- AARP
- Alaska Community Services
- Alaska Conservation Alliance
- Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities/Transit Office
- Alaska Department of Vocational Rehabilitation
- Alaska Direct Bus Lines
- Alaska Trucking Association
- Alaska Railroad
- Access Alaska
- Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority
- Alaska Center for Blind and Visually Impaired Adults
- Alaska State Independent Living Council
- Alaska Village Initiatives
- Anchorage Public Transportation Department/People Mover

- Anchorage - Office of Economic and Community Development
- Alpha Omega Life Care
- Brooks and Associates
- Chickaloon Tribal Council
- Copper River Native Association
- Disability Law Center of Alaska
- Ek Coaches
- Fairbanks - MACS Transit Bus System
- Fairbanks Resource Agency
- Glacier Valley Transit - Girdwood
- Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education
- Homer - Independent Living Center
- InterIsland Ferry Authority
- Intelligent Transportation Society of Alaska
- Juneau - Capital Transit
- Juneau - Catholic Community Services
- Kenai Peninsula - Central Area Rural Transit System, Inc. (CARTS)
- Ketchikan Gateway Borough
- Kodiak - Senior Citizens of Kodiak
- Mat-Su Services for Children and Adults
- Mat-Su Transit (MASCOT)
- Mat-Su Borough - Transportation Department
- Mabel T. Caverly Center
- Mobilitat
- MV Transportation

AMC wishes to thank the following members for submitting photography used in the 2008 - 2009 annual report: AARP Alaska, Anchorage Public Transportation Department/People Mover, Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education, Jessica Debartolo at AKDOTPF, Ketchikan Gateway Borough, Kodiak - Senior Citizens of Kodiak, Mat-Su Services for Children and Adults, and Sitka Tribe of Alaska.



- REACH - Juneau
- Salcha Neighborhood Organization (SNO)
- Schetky Northwest Sales, Inc.
- Sitka Tribe
- Sitka - Center for Community
- Small Urban and Rural Transit Center
- Southeast Senior Services
- Southeast Alaska Independent Living
- VPSI, Inc.
- Brenda Bergsrud
- Debbi Howard
- Judy Tymick
- Millie Ryan
- Margaret Evans
- Julia Potter
- Mary Fairbanks
- Tim Sullivan
- Sally Spieker
- Todd Logan
- Tim Pearson
- Larry Gibson
- Sue Bergstrom
- Barbara Singleton
- Gretchen Wieman
- Ruth L'Hommedieu





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