

ALASKA MOBILITY COALITION
2009 - 2010 ANNUAL REPORT



**THE GOING
IS GOOD.**

WELCOME FROM AMC



Dear Friends of the Alaska Mobility Coalition (AMC):

The going is good here at AMC! The past year has been one of growth and opportunity for our organization, and we're excited to share the highlights with you in our 2009 - 2010 annual report.

As a private, nonprofit membership organization that represents and advocates for public and community transportation in Alaska, our mission is to achieve mobility through community-appropriate transportation services. We've made some great strides toward that recently.

For example, the AMC membership has doubled during the last two years! We currently have more than 80 members across Alaska, Canada and lower 48 states. Our members provide more than 7 million rides annually for Alaskans to get to work, school and medical appointments. Thanks to all of our new and renewing members for their support and commitment to public and community transportation in Alaska. You can see a full listing of our membership later in this report.

On the federal front, the AMC is working with Alaska's congressional delegation to ensure their support of the Surface Transportation Authorization Act of 2009. We want to make sure the needs of smaller states and rural populations are included in the reauthorization. It is anticipated that reauthorization will take place in 2011.

AMC is also focused on state advocacy efforts. In recent years, there has been tremendous growth in public and community transportation all over Alaska. As individuals and communities around the state struggle with declining revenues and increasing demands for transportation, the State of Alaska must have a financial role in development of public and community transportation. We at AMC believe it is time for the state to invest in public transportation, and we will continue to advocate for state support.

In the coming year, AMC will be working with our members on projects including phase two of our public awareness campaign, as well as the transit technology project, the preventative maintenance project, the Governor's Coordinated Transportation

*“Riding the bus saves me a lot of money.
I estimate I save \$5,000 a year.”*

– JEFF MANFULL
COMMUTER, ANCHORAGE



Task Force and the workplace transportation projects.

We invite you to read more about our current and future efforts in this report. You can also keep up to date by signing up to receive our monthly e-newsletter, becoming a Facebook fan or following us on Twitter.

Thanks again for your support of AMC. We look forward to seeing you at the AMC annual meeting in October.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Beckmann
President, AMC Board of Directors

David M. Levy
AMC Executive Director



THE GOING'S BEEN GOOD: YEAR IN REVIEW



Alaska Mobility Coalition (AMC) took some major steps forward during the 2009-2010 fiscal year. Highlights included:

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

Thanks to the efforts of friends and advocates in Alaska and around the U.S. and Canada, AMC has doubled its membership in the last two years – from 39 in 2008 to 81 in 2010! AMC now has members from Bethel to Prince of Wales Island, and from Canada to the Lower 48.

GOVERNOR'S COORDINATED TRANSPORTATION TASK FORCE

After nine months of traveling and listening to ideas regarding coordinated transportation in the state, the Governor's Coordinated Transportation Task Force presented their recommendations to the governor in February 2010. The recommendations focused on the need for federal, state, tribal and local government to work together to share resources in order to coordinate transit services throughout the state. A copy of the report is available on the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) Web site, www.dot.state.ak.us.

Thanks to AMC members and task force members Jennifer Beckmann, Andi Nations, Pat Branson, Glenn Miller and Camille Ferguson for their time and efforts. A special thank you also goes to the state agencies that provide staff for the task force, as well as DOT&PF staff, including Commissioner Leo von Scheben, Jeff Ottesen, Eric Taylor, Debbi Howard and Jessica DeBartolo, and Marsha Bracke, the group facilitator.

AMC PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

AMC kicked off its statewide public awareness campaign in spring 2010. The campaign – Alaska Public Transportation/ The Going is Good – focused on the importance and value of public and community transportation in Alaska. Campaign advertising was placed in newspapers, on the radio, on buses as well as online at www.goodgoingalaska.com.

Thanks to the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority for their sponsorship of the project, as well as to DOT&PF, AMC members and especially Selena Barlow of Transit Marketing for their support and assistance with this campaign.

“The bus system is important for people with disabilities and seniors to get around town.”

– KEVIN GADSEY
COMMUTER, KETCHIKAN



2009 ALASKA TRANSIT CONFERENCE

The 2009 Alaska Transit Conference, held in partnership with AKDOT, took place in Anchorage on October 27 - 29, 2009. Conference highlights included:

- Keynote presentation from Dale Marsico, executive director for the Community Transportation Association of America.
- Presentation and update from the Governor's Coordinated Transportation Task Force.
- Presentation of findings from the transit survey of Alaska voters by Dittman and Associates.
- Video presentations regarding federal transportation issues from Sens. Mark Begich and Lisa Murkowski and U.S. Rep. Don Young.

STATE SUPPORT FOR TRANSIT FUNDING

Obtaining state support for public and community transportation operations in Alaska was one of AMC's top priorities during the 2010 legislative session.

While unsuccessful in getting public and community transportation funding added to the budget, AMC is optimistic that groundwork has been laid for obtaining funding in future years.



THE FUTURE LOOKS EVEN BETTER: THE COMING YEAR



Alaska Mobility Coalition (AMC) will work with its members on the following projects in the 2010 - 2011 fiscal year:

PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN – PHASE 2

AMC is developing phase two of “The Going is Good” public awareness campaign. The campaign will continue to focus on the positive benefits of public and community transportation in Alaska.

TRANSIT TECHNOLOGY PROJECT

AMC has awarded Athey Creek Consultants a contract to oversee, administer and monitor AMC’s transit technology project. The federally funded project will provide technology for public and community transit systems across the state. An RFP for transit technology grants is expected to be released in the winter of 2011 and awarded over the spring and summer of 2011.

PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE PROJECT

The AMC board of directors and staff are working on a project to provide technical assistance in developing vehicle maintenance plans for rural transit systems and providers across the state. Five rural Alaska communities will be selected in year one to participate in the project and additional communities will be selected to participate in year two.

GOVERNOR’S COORDINATED TRANSPORTATION TASK FORCE

Gov. Sean Parnell signed an administrative order in July 2010 re-establishing the Governor’s Coordinated Transportation Task Force. AMC advocated for the creation of the task force, and will provide technical assistance, as needed.

The governor asked the task force to follow up on the recommendations of the previous task force, including:

- Gather detailed information on customer bases served such as manner and type of service, costs for each program, and identification of the full range of funding available to state, federal and local

“I feel good about taking one more car off the road.”

– TIM DOEBLER
UAA PROFESSOR, ANCHORAGE



government agencies and private entities that administer or support community-based transportation services for persons with special needs.

- Analyze and make recommendations to determine improved ways agencies can coordinate and combine services to achieve cost savings.

- Perform a needs assessment to quantify transportation demands for persons with special needs, and recommend the removal of barriers that prevent coordination of these services.

- Generate a draft coordinated transportation action plan that articulates a shared statewide vision for human service public transportation and formulates the recommendations of the first report into outcome-based strategies.

- Review existing federal-aid programs related to Alaska’s urban, rural and tribal transit services, and propose recommended strategies for the administration to pursue as part of the reauthorization of the new federal surface transportation program.

- Recommend specific strategies to implement the urban, rural and tribal elements of the new federal surface transportation program.

- Propose draft legislation or other strategies that support the coordinated infrastructure recommendations in the first report to ensure the sustained coordination and efficient use of the state’s resources.
- Prepare and issue a final report, including recommendations.

The task force is expected to make their recommendations to the governor and the Alaska Legislature by the end of January 2012.



ALASKA CONSERVATION ALLIANCE



The Alaska Conservation Alliance (the Alliance) believes that a healthy environment and a strong economy go hand-in-hand – and public transportation plays a key role in making that happen. That’s why the Alliance has been a member of the Alaska Mobility Coalition (AMC) for the past two years.

“We are a member of AMC because sustainable, cost-effective and coordinated transportation also benefits Alaska’s environment. Mass transit saves the state and Alaskans money while reducing our impact on the environment,” said Caitlin Higgins, the Alliance’s executive director. She added that AMC provides information and resources that the Alliance can pass onto their member groups. The organization also relies on AMC’s expertise on matters relating to their legislative focus.

Founded in 1997, the Alliance is a statewide nonprofit organization working toward its mission to protect Alaska’s natural environment through voter education, engagement and advocacy. With approximately 40 member organizations, the Alliance has a combined membership of more than 38,000 Alaskans.

“Mass transit saves the state and Alaskans money, while reducing our impact on the environment.”

“The conservation community feels that public transportation is an excellent tool for everyday Alaskans to use in reducing their environmental impact,” Higgins said. “Cost-effective and reliable transit makes it more likely that people will choose the environmentally-friendly transportation option.”

According to Higgins, there are many reasons Alaskans should care about, support and use public transportation. For example, it saves drivers money on gas and road maintenance, reduces traffic congestion, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, and helps reduce commuter stress.

“From an economic, environmental and quality of life perspective, public transportation simply makes sense,” she said.

To learn more about Alaska Conservation Alliance, visit www.akvoice.org or call 907.258.6171.

INTER-ISLAND FERRY AUTHORITY

The Inter-Island Ferry Authority (IFA), which is the only public water transportation system serving Prince of Wales Island, began literally on the back of a napkin.

“Local islanders were frustrated with the cost and inconsistency of service between Prince of Wales Island and Ketchikan,” explained Roberta Landgren, finance manager of IFA, which has been a member of Alaska Mobility Coalition (AMC) for two years.

“The challenges of our land, air and water transportation systems with a limited population require us to ‘think outside the box.’”

Determined to find another way, the island communities of Craig, Klawock, Thorne Bay and Coffman Cove, along with Petersburg and Wrangell, joined together to form IFA. In operation since 2001, the ferry currently offers daily service between Hollis and

Ketchikan, providing vital commercial, personal and medical transportation to more than 55,000 people annually. IFA ferries also connect with Alaska Marine Highway System vessels at Ketchikan.

“Alaskans have always had to forge our own way. The challenges of our land, air and water transportation systems with a limited population require us to ‘think outside the box.’ AMC helps and supports those efforts,” Landgren said.

Among the benefits AMC offers to IFA – and other Alaska transit providers – are opportunities to network, awareness of transit issues before Congress and the Alaska Legislature, and access to industry experts.

“The IFA feels that the Alaska Mobility Coalition connects us with industry experts and colleagues, and keeps us aware of changes in the political attitudes and actions that affect our industry and ridership,” Landgren said.

To learn more about the Inter-Island Ferry Authority, visit www.interislandferry.com, call 907.755.4848 or e-mail reservations@interislandferry.com.



INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTER, INC.



The Independent Living Center (ILC), a nonprofit organization serving consumers living with disabilities, is focused on promoting choice, independence and quality of life. Providing affordable, accessible transportation is an important piece of that effort, which is why ILC chose to become a member of Alaska Mobility Coalition (AMC).

“AMC supports the mission of affordable and accessible transportation for persons with disabilities statewide,” said Joyanna Geisler, executive director of ILC, which joined AMC approximately two years ago. “AMC is an objective entity that is knowledgeable about various types of transportation and understands the difficulties that Alaska’s urban, rural and remote communities face when it comes to transportation.”

“AMC supports the mission of affordable and accessible transportation for persons with disabilities statewide.”

ILC, which serves the Kenai Peninsula, Kodiak, Valdez and Cordova, is no stranger to finding solutions to transportation difficulties. The organization developed a unique supported transportation program in 1997, in partnership with Soldotna-based AAA Cab and with funding support from the Alaska Department of Transportation and Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority.

Through the program, ILC purchased a lift-equipped minivan and leased it free of charge to the cab company. ILC also developed a voucher program, which offered subsidized rides and resulted in affordable, accessible, on-demand transportation for ILC consumers. The program has been so successful that ILC expanded it to Homer, and another organization replicated it in Juneau. AAA Cab has also purchased five of its own lift-equipped minivans.

“This is a sustainable community transit program that benefits elders and persons with disabilities, and could be used to benefit the public as a whole,” Geisler said.

To learn more about the Independent Living Center, visit www.peninsulailc.org or call 907.235.7911 or 800.770.7911.

TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE

Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC), a nonprofit organization incorporated in 1962, is the traditional tribal consortium of the 42 villages of Interior Alaska. Of those villages, only nine are accessible by road. The others are reachable only by air, or by river (for brief periods of the year). TCC's work toward meeting the health and social service challenges for more than 10,000 Alaska Natives spread across the 235,000 square miles of interior Alaska underscores the importance of transportation.

TCC became a member of Alaska Mobility Coalition (AMC) in 2009 to establish a statewide network with other tribal/state/federal organizations regarding tribal transportation within the state. TCC understands there is a great demand in rural Alaska to not only identify, but to be able to give a collective voice to the needs and concerns regarding statewide public and community transportation issues.

TCC believes the benefits offered by AMC include tribal transit technical assistance at the statewide level and access to a list of potential transit funding opportunities.

AMC recently assisted TCC in applying for a Community Transportation Association of America grant, which would provide funding for an Interior Fairbanks corridor study involving approximately 12 tribal communities located near Fairbanks. The study would allow TCC to identify the current transportation/transit coordination needs of these remote communities and with the information gathered, work toward finding a solution to meet those needs.

TCC understands there is a great demand in rural Alaska to not only identify, but to be able to give a collective voice to the needs and concerns regarding statewide public and community transportation issues.



To learn more about Tanana Chiefs Conference, visit www.tananachiefs.org or call 907.452.8251 or 800.478.6822.

THANK YOU



Alaska Mobility Coalition (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 & Public Facilities
Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority

2009 – 2010 TRANSIT ADVOCATES/ ORGANIZATIONS

AARP
Access Alaska
Alaska Center for the Environment
Alaska Community Services
Alaska Conservation Alliance
Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities

Alaska Direct Bus Lines
Alaska Railroad
Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority
Alaska Statewide Independent Living Council
Alaska Transportation Priorities Project
Alaska Trucking Association
Alaska Village Initiatives
Brooks and Associates
Capital Transit – Juneau
Central Area Rural Transit System, Inc. – Kenai Peninsula
Center for Community – Sitka
Chickaloon Tribal Council
City of Bethel – Bethel Transit
Connecting Ties – Valdez
Copper River Native Association
Dimond Center
Disability Law Center of Alaska
EK Coaches
Fairbanks Resource Agency
Fare Logistics

Glacier Valley Transit
Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education
HDR Alaska
Inter-Island Ferry Authority
ITS Alaska
Juneau Economic Development Council
Ketchikan Gateway Borough – The Bus
LSC Consultants
MAC Transit – Fairbanks
Mat-Su Services for Children and Adults
Mat-Su Transit (MASCOT)
Mat-Su Borough – Transportation Department
Mobilitat
Municipality of Anchorage – People Mover
MV Transit
Organized Village of Kasaan
REACH – Juneau
RLS and Associates
Schetky Northwest Sales
Senior Citizens of Kodiak
Sitka Tribe of Alaska
Southeast Alaska Independent Living

“The bus is an important economic driver that brings our customers to our business.”

– HUGH ASHLOCK
BUSINESS OWNER, ANCHORAGE



Southeast Senior Services
State of Alaska – ADA
program
Tanana Chiefs Conference
TrailerCraft
Trapeze Software
Montana State University
– Western Transportation
Institute
VPSI Commuter Vanpools

Margaret Evans
Millie Ryan
Osama Abaza
Ruth L’Hommedieu’
Sally Spieker
Seth Andersen
Sue Bergstrom
Tim Pearson
Tim Sullivan
Todd Logan

Margaret Evans
Transportation Advocate

Gary Stevig
Chickaloon Tribal Council

Lou Friend
Transit Friendly Solutions

Ed Graff
Van Tran/Fairbanks
North Star Borough
Transportation

**2009 – 2010 TRANSIT
ADVOCATES/
INDIVIDUALS**

Aleks Pfaffe
Alton Staff
Barbara Singleton
Bill Herman
Brenda Bergsrud
David Levy
Debbi Howard
Gary Katsion
Gretchen Wieman
Jamie Acton
Jody Fitzgerald
Judith Farrow
Judy Tymick
Kevin Gadsey
Larry Gibson
Lenore Morford

**2009 – 2010 BOARD
OF DIRECTORS**

Jennifer Beckmann,
President
Central Area Rural Transit
System, Inc.

Connie Sipe, Vice President
Center for Community

Doug Bridges, Secretary
Southeast Senior Services

Camille Ferguson, Treasurer
Sitka Tribe of Alaska

Jody Karcz
Municipality of Anchorage
Public Transportation

**If you would like to get on
board with AMC, visit the
Web site at
www.alaskamobility.org.
Or contact AMC at
907.240.2702 or
info@alaskamobility.org.**



AMC wishes to thank the following members and organizations for submitting photography used in the 2009 - 2010 annual report: People Mover, Independent Living Center, Alaska Conservation Alliance, Inter-Island Ferry Authority, Alaska Railroad, Carts, Larry Turner (pg. 8), Chip Porter (pg. 9), Carolyn Chapman (pg. 9), Tanana Chiefs Conference (pg.13), Bill Roth / Anchorage Daily News (top middle pg. 14).

ABOUT AMC



Founded in 2002, the Alaska Mobility Coalition (AMC) is a private, nonprofit membership organization that represents public, private and community transit providers in Alaska. In addition, AMC provides technical assistance to new and emerging transit providers in the state.

AMC's mission is to achieve mobility through community appropriate transportation services in Alaska. AMC works toward this mission by:

- Advocating in Juneau and Washington, D.C. for capital and operating funding for Alaska transit providers.

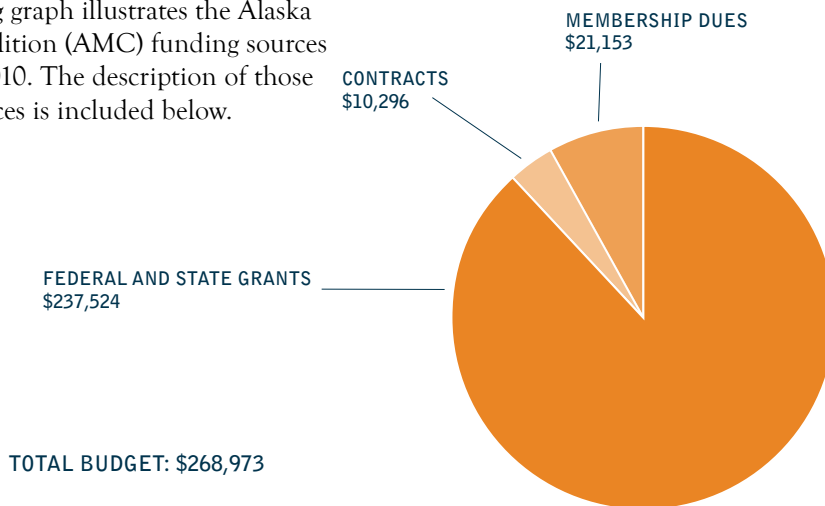
- Promoting safe and cost-effective transportation that meets local, regional and statewide needs.

- Promoting sustainable, coordinated transportation in the state.

Currently, AMC has more than 80 members across Alaska, Canada and the lower 48 states. AMC members, which include public, private, tribal and human service transportation providers and transit advocates, provide more than 7 million rides annually for Alaskans to get to work, school, recreation, shopping and medical appointments.

2009 - 2010 FINANCIALS

The following graph illustrates the Alaska Mobility Coalition (AMC) funding sources for 2009 - 2010. The description of those funding sources is included below.



FEDERAL AND STATE GRANTS - \$237,524.48

AMC receives Job Access Reserve Commute (JARC) funds from the Federal Transit Administration through the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (ADOT&PF) 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 Trust beneficiaries.

CONTRACTS - \$10,296

AMC contracted with the ADOT&PF to organize the annual statewide transit conference, and with the AKMHTA as part of a match for phase one of the AMC public awareness campaign.

MEMBERSHIP DUES - \$21,153.60

AMC is a statewide membership organization. In 2009 - 2010, AMC had 81 dues-paying members in Alaska, Canada and the lower 48.





ALASKA MOBILITY COALITION
3705 ARCTIC BLVD. #1777
ANCHORAGE, AK 99503-5774

907.240.2702

WWW.ALASKAMOBILITY.ORG
INFO@ALASKAMOBILITY.ORG

TWITTER.COM/ALASKAMOBILITY

