



DPC Issue Brief

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for Texans with disabilities.

Title: Address Barriers to Public Transportation

Background: The Texas Legislature in 2001 passed H.B. 3588 which mandated coordination of a broad range of public transportation services targeted to different populations, existing in various state agencies, and supported by multiple funding streams. A total of 28 Regional Transportation Coordination Committees (RTCC) began a planning process to identify and address local barriers. A number of barriers have emerged which are common to each region.

Legislation will emerge from the RTCC process that may seek to eliminate bureaucratic obstacles to allow greater sharing of vehicles and other transportation resources, reduce duplication, improve connectivity of adjoining transportation systems, and reduce confusion by integrating eligibility, scheduling, and operational functions.

Recommendation: The Disability Policy Consortium recommends that the Texas Legislature to direct the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to establish standards in the continuing development of public transportation services, namely:

1. Key goals of any proposed changes in transportation services must include greater availability, accessibility, and affordability of transportation services for Texans with disabilities
2. All transportation programs must demonstrate full compliance with standards of accessibility for people with disabilities as a condition for receipt of state funds, and services designed to exceed minimum standards of accessibility must be given significant value in any competitive application processes;
3. Each Regional Transportation Coordination Committee plan submitted must verify multiple opportunities for public input and significant participation of people with disabilities in the planning process;
4. All proposed changes in transportation services must include comments by people with disabilities and organizations that serve people with disabilities;
5. All transportation programs must follow statewide guidelines to ensure consistent implementation of complaint and appeals processes.

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MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS: *Statewide Members:* Advocacy, Incorporated, Brain Injury Association of Texas, Coalition of Texans with Disabilities, Epilepsy Coalition of Texas, The Institute for Disability Access/ADAPT, Lone Star Association for Persons in Supported Employment, Mental Health Association in Texas, National Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Texas, National Multiple Sclerosis Society of Texas, Texas Advocates, Texas AIDS Network, Texas Association of Centers for Independent Living, Texas Association of the Deaf, Texas Center for Disability Studies/ Texas Technology Access Project, Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities, Texas Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health, Texas Legal Services Center, Texas Mental Health Consumers, Texas State Independent Living Council, Texas State Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, The Center on Disability and Development at Texas A&M University, Council for Families for Children, United Cerebral Palsy of Texas, The Spina Bifida Association of Texas, Inc., and the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance of Texas. *Local Members:* Epilepsy Foundation Central & South Texas. REACH Resource Centers on Independent Living – Dallas, Fort Worth and Denton, Corpus Christi Committee for Persons with Disabilities, Goodwill of Central Texas and Coastal Bend Center for Independent Living