



United We Ride

State & Community Ambassador Network

Ambassador Job Description

Background and Purpose

On Aug. 10, 2005 President George W. Bush signed into law H.R. 3, the *Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users*. This bold and sweeping legislation, known as SAFETA-LU, provides new resources for rural, small urban and urban community transportation providers and also includes far-reaching provisions to enhance cooperation and coordination in the provision of transportation services at the state and local level.

The legislation creates a new definition for public transportation that embraces many of the goals and objectives originally developed as part of the Federal Transit Administration's United We Ride Initiative of March 2005. Additionally, part of the legislation provides financial support and incentives to community and public transit systems of all kinds who seek to work collaboratively with human service agencies and providers, as well as provide new tools like mobility management to assist communities in furthering public transportation and human service transportation services.

The overarching mission for the National Resource Center (NRC) as part of the United We Ride Initiative has been to provide assistance and resources to policy makers, state and local officials, human service agencies, consumers and advocacy organizations and transportation providers to understand the opportunities available through this legislation and to translate those opportunities to concrete action.

The NRC in collaboration with the Federal Transit Administration and administered by the Community Transportation Association of America, has created and developed a ten member Coordination Ambassador Corps. This network has been developed to further the work already begun during the United We Ride Initiative and to help policy makers, federal officials, local officials, human service agencies and transportation providers understand the requirements and opportunities created by SAFETEA-LU with the coordination framework. The duties and responsibilities of the Ambassadors have included the following.

General Responsibilities: (1) To provide assistance to states in developing and implementing coordinated human service transportation plans; (2) to help build awareness of decision-makers, providers of service, and consumers on key issues related to human service transportation and coordination, including those issues in SAFETEA-LU; and (3) to help identifying sustained coordination components that further collaboration between human service and transit providers in communities.

Specific Duties

- Assigned Ambassadors will assist with coordination grant requirements and provisions of SAFETEA-LU.
- Ambassadors will develop and implement strategies for meeting states' technical assistance needs.
- Ambassadors will conduct at least 12 on-site technical assistance visits with state United We Ride coordination teams or comparable stakeholder groups.
- Ambassadors will convene quarterly phone conferences based on geographic distribution or topical issues.
- Ambassadors will coordinate technical assistance activities with FTA regional offices, including referral of appropriate issues related to federal policy.

Approaches to these Duties and Responsibilities

- Ambassadors will provide advice to the targeted states and other entities as

to possible solutions based on useful practices, available resources, research and other identified areas.

- Ambassadors will promote the importance of mobility and the role that coordination plays in providing mobility and to carry that process to state Legislatures, state executive branch agencies, local policy makers and others so that maximum use may be made of the opportunities created by SAFETEA-LU and other agency legislation where transportation programs are authorized and funded (i.e., TANF, WIA, Headstart and Medicaid, etc.) in order to implement the Executive Order.
- Ambassadors will facilitate workshops, planning sessions, listening sessions and other forums at the state and community level in which the message of coordination and the United We Ride Program may be delivered to interested stakeholders. This task may include, but not be limited to, utilizing the Framework for Action State and Community Assessment Tool resulting in a Community or State Action Plan, Assessment and Resource Analysis and strategies for implementing different aspects of the plan.
- Ambassadors will provide regular oral and/or written and electronic communications to Consortium staff and members, State and local stakeholders, and other designated officials about issues they encounter on mobility issues.
- At their quarterly conference calls, Ambassadors will afford interested stakeholders appropriate opportunities to report current barriers and share useful practices with other States and communities within the region.
- Assigned Ambassadors will serve as a clearinghouse for the transfer of technical assistance and/or training initiatives (at the state and local levels) and communicate these activities with Consortium staff and key stakeholders involved in human service transportation and other identified or interested parties.

- Ambassadors will provide representation at such meetings and forums as deemed necessary to provide information on coordination and the United We Ride Program at the State, Federal and community level.