

Small Group Discussion on Transportation-Related Public Policy

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Underlying Question: How can public policy initiatives support our work to reduce single-occupancy vehicle use and promote alternative modes of transportation? Specific questions for discussion:

- In what ways do existing state or local policies support your work? Are any existing policies a hindrance or barrier to your work?
- What specific public policy changes would help you do your job, but currently do not exist?
- Is funding a barrier to implementation of your program or to meeting demand for your program?
- Is your organization interested in playing a role in advocating for emerging public policy, or implementation of existing public policy?
- How can we use this network to share information, identify common priorities, and coordinate our advocacy efforts for greater impact?

Outcomes of our conversation to share with the group for broad discussion:

- Top three priorities of the group for critical gaps in public policy that specifically affect our work, especially where the conversation could be sparked or moved along with advocacy support from people and organizations in this room.
- Proposal for maintaining communication among this group with respect to public policy, and facilitating coordination of advocacy moving forward.

Background Information – Questions to have in mind as we move through the conversation:

AARP and others have identified three key policy priorities for the transportation sector. Where does this group have the most interest and leverage?

- 1) Coordination between land-use planning and transportation planning at all levels;
- 2) Investment in a more robust and integrated public transportation system statewide;
- 3) Support for alternative modes of transportation.

There are a various scales of public policy, which policy needs and strategies are appropriate for each?

- **Local Level** – creative policy (i.e. zoning requirements for parking, public support for transportation infrastructure, transportation management associations, transit oriented development, etc.) at the municipal level can generate local success stories, and inspire other towns to adopt similar policies and initiatives. Is there a way to support more innovation through pilot programs and disseminate results statewide? How else can we support policy change at the local level?
- **Regional** – transportation organizations, planners and providers that serve multiple towns (i.e. ACTR and Vital Communities) may find that policy initiatives implemented across their region could help them do their work. Is there a way to support regional policy changes and through what mechanisms? **Statewide** – Some policy is best addressed at the statewide level i.e. 2011's Complete Streets bill, funding, and Act 250 changes). What are priorities for change at the state level?

(cont.)

Who is advocating for transportation-related policy?

- **VNRC** (from the perspective of land-use planning)
- **AARP** (from the perspective of mobility and accessibility)
- **Bike/Ped** advocacy organizations (Local Motion, etc.)
- **Health Organizations** (from the perspective of promoting healthy, active communities)
- **The Planning Community** (from the perspective of integrating transportation planning into land-use planning practices)
- **Public transit providers**