



## Frequently Asked Questions about the **Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan**



**EAST-WEST GATEWAY**  
Council of Governments

Creating Solutions Across Jurisdictional Boundaries

## Q&A

### Q - What is the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan?

The Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan (CHSTP) is a federally-required plan for the eight-county bi-state St. Louis region that identifies needs and gaps in transportation services for seniors and individuals with disabilities and recommends strategies to address them.

East-West Gateway Council of Governments ensures that federal transportation funds are used according to regional planning priorities and federal guidelines. This plan guides funding decisions and helps set selection criteria for transportation activities and projects that serve these populations. East-West Gateway updates the plan every four years.

### Q - What kind of information does the CHSTP contain?

- ◆ An assessment of regional transportation needs for seniors and individuals with disabilities.
- ◆ An inventory of known transportation services in the St. Louis region for these populations.
- ◆ Strategies, activities and projects to address the identified gaps between current services and needs, as well as opportunities to achieve efficiencies in service delivery.
- ◆ Priorities for implementing the strategies identified based on resources, time and feasibility.
- ◆ A regional demographic profile.



## Frequently Asked Questions

### Q - Why is the CHSTP important?

Based on the priorities established in the plan, East-West Gateway uses a competitive framework to score and select projects submitted for funding under the Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities (Section 5310) Program. Nonprofit organizations, local government authorities and operators of public transportation are eligible to apply. Section 5310 requires a 20 percent match for capital and mobility management projects and a 50 percent match for operating projects.

Seniors age 65 and over make up **13.6 percent** and individuals with disabilities comprise **12 percent** of the population in the **St. Louis region.**

(Source: U.S. Census 2013 5-year ACS)

### Q - How was the public involved in the most recent update of the CHSTP?

To help guide the CHSTP 2016 update, a stakeholder committee representing more than 30 transportation providers and human service agencies met to identify unmet transportation needs, brainstorm and prioritize strategies.

In addition, an online survey collected information from more than 50 nonprofit agencies and public transportation providers across the region on existing transportation inventories, coordination efforts and gaps in transportation services. East-West Gateway also made the draft plan available for public comment and hosted a public open house.



## Q - What type of projects does Section 5310 fund?

Section 5310 provides federal funding to help improve mobility for seniors and individuals with disabilities by removing barriers to transportation services and expanding available transportation mobility options. The program provides grant funds for capital, operating and mobility management expenses for public transportation projects that:

- ◆ Meet the special needs of seniors and individuals with disabilities when public transit is insufficient, inappropriate or unavailable.
- ◆ Exceed the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990.
- ◆ Improve access to fixed-route public transportation service and decrease reliance by individuals with disabilities on complementary paratransit services.
- ◆ Provide alternatives to public transportation that assist seniors and individuals with disabilities.

**57 percent** of agencies currently coordinate with other service providers.

*(Source: EWG survey of transportation service providers, October 2015)*

## Current Transportation Gaps

- ◇ **Cost**—Lack of funding to provide appropriate transportation service and a high cost to use transportation.
- ◇ **Temporal**—Transportation service is not available when it is needed or the service becomes ineffective because of long travel times.
- ◇ **Spatial**—Locations that are underserved, or not served at all, by transportation services, and connections to and within the regional transportation system are lacking.
- ◇ **Awareness**—Individual riders and providers are not fully informed on available transportation options.
- ◇ **Capital/Infrastructure**—Capital or infrastructure limitations prevent individuals from accessing transportation options.
- ◇ **Institutional**—Caused by the rules, regulations and requirements that govern transportation service provision.

**67 percent** of agencies cite lack of funding as their greatest overall challenge to providing service.

*(Source: EWG survey of transportation service providers, October 2015)*

## How can I learn more?

You can find the full plan and information on the Section 5310 program on our website at <http://www.ewgateway.org/chstp>.

## Have Questions?

For questions, email [CHSTP@ewgateway.org](mailto:CHSTP@ewgateway.org) or contact us at 314-421-4220 or 618-274-2750.

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