

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 21
NORTH CAROLINA HUMAN SERVICE TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Human Service Transportation Council was created in 1991 to address problems, concerns, and opportunities regarding the provision of human service transportation and to make policy recommendations to the North Carolina Department of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Human Service Transportation Council has maintained a leadership role to increase cooperation among member agencies and increased coordination of local human service transportation; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Human Service Transportation Council has undertaken studies to facilitate the further coordination of human service transportation; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Transportation (DOT), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and Department of Commerce (DOC) administer State and federal funding programs which may be used by local human service agencies to provide necessary client transportation services; and

WHEREAS, there is the need for a continued statement of policy on coordination and maximization of transportation resources and these state departments and agencies are in a position to facilitate the more efficient use of these resources; and

WHEREAS, human service transportation funds are to be expended in a manner consistent with the local Community Transportation Improvement Plan; and

WHEREAS, transportation is essential to the delivery of customer services; and

WHEREAS, there is the increased need for advocacy, capacity building and systemic change that results in greater access to and use of transportation resources; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Human Service Transportation Council (“Council”) is “to provide leadership in improving the coordination of human service transportation and to ensure

that funds are maximized to serve as many elderly, disabled and financially disadvantaged individuals in the State of North Carolina as possible, in a safe, efficient and effective manner.”

NOW, THEREFORE, by the power vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and laws of the State of North Carolina, IT IS ORDERED:

Section 1. Establishment.

The North Carolina Human Service Transportation Council ("Council") is hereby established.

Section 2. Policy.

Wherever practical, existing transportation resources, public and private, shall be maximized before any new resources shall be made available through public funds.

The locally prepared and adopted Community Transportation Improvement Plan shall continue to be the means to determine the most cost effective and efficient use of transportation resources.

To the extent that funds are available and equipment is used consistent with the local Community Transportation Improvement Plan, DOT will provide financial support for capital equipment and the administrative assistance associated with the provision of local human service transportation, while the transportation funds from other State departments will be used primarily for operating assistance.

The State departments should cooperate in establishing, following and supporting the policies, procedures and decisions of the Human Service Transportation Council as described herein. Council representatives shall encourage local human service agencies and community transportation systems to participate in community transportation improvement planning efforts and in subsequent plan implementation, and to purchase or provide transportation services in a manner consistent with the local plan.

The State departments shall promote transportation policies that are customer-centered and support high quality multi-modal transportation systems focused on service, choice and flexibility.

Section 3. Membership.

A. The Council shall be composed of representatives from the DHHS, DOC, Employment Security Commission, Department of Administration, Department of Public Instruction and DOT. Representation shall include any division which administers State or federal funds used to provide human service transportation. The secretaries/chairpersons of these departments may designate divisions within the departments to serve on the Council. Division directors may designate alternates to represent them on the Council. The Council shall be composed of no more than 25 members.

B. Departments, agencies or programs which are outside the jurisdiction of the Executive Order are encouraged to join the Council and to adopt the findings and recommendations of the Council.

C. The Council shall establish subcommittees including individuals representing organizations and consumers outside the departments that comprise the Council as needed to address emerging issues.

D. A representative from either the DHHS or DOT Public Transportation Division shall chair the Council on an annual rotating basis.

Section 4. Duties of Council.

The Council shall have the following duties:

A. To undertake studies and demonstration projects that will enhance the coordination and delivery of human service transportation services in the safest, most cost-effective, efficient and customer-focused means possible.

B. To advise and make recommendations to the DHHS, DOT and other state agencies concerning human service transportation policy.

C. To identify opportunities and barriers and recommend solutions to improve community transportation services.

D. To develop and present an Annual Executive Summary of the Status of Human Service Transportation in North Carolina.

Section 5. Administration and Oversight

The DHHS and DOT shall provide administrative support for the Council. Members serve without compensation. The DHHS and DOT may appoint individuals, not associated with the Council, to a Policy Oversight Committee to address inter-departmental policy issues.

Section 6. Effect on Other Executive Orders.

Executive Order No. 78 is hereby rescinded. The Council created herein shall be the successor to that North Carolina Human Service Transportation Council.

This order shall be effective immediately.

Done in the City of Raleigh this the ____ day of April 2002.

Michael F. Easley
Governor

ATTEST:

Elaine F. Marshall
Secretary of State