



Appendix C

SAFETEA-LU Planning and Funding Process

A variety of federal, state, regional, and local funding sources support regional special needs transportation. Funding sources for implementation of this plan include the following:

- Stretching existing dollars further through coordination
- Additional investments from regional, state and local agencies
- Grant and foundation dollars
- Funds distributed under the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Equity ACT of 2003 (SAFETEA-LU)

Of immediate significance are the planning requirements under SAFETEA-LU. This Act requires a project to be included in a regional Transit and Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan to be eligible for funds.

SAFETEA-LU is a six-year transportation reauthorization bill that authorizes funds for fiscal years 2004 through 2009. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) requires projects funded from the 2007 appropriations to be developed through a regional planning process. This includes funding for:

- 5310 - Elderly and Disabled Transportation
- 5311 – Rural General Public Transportation (recommended)
- 5316 - Jobs Access and Reverse Commute (JARC)
- 5317 - New Freedom

PSRC, the central Puget Sound's Metropolitan Planning Organization, has expanded upon the "United We Ride in Puget Sound" plan to develop a coordinated human services and public transit transportation plan for the Greater Puget Sound. The PSRC coordinated public transit and human services transportation plan will be utilized by PSRC as the framework for selecting projects for funding and encouraging coordinated planning.

Previously, the PSRC conducted the project selection for JARC funds. With the passing of SAFETEA-LU, projects funded by the Elderly Persons and Persons with Disability fund and the New Freedom fund will be competitively selected by PSRC as well. The PSRC plan replaces the previous JARC plans while encompassing the other required elements of coordinated transportation planning for the two other FTA funds.

Projects improving regional transportation identified in the United We Ride in Puget Sound plan could be submitted to the PSRC for funding.

The following diagram shows how the PSRC plan incorporates the regional and other local plans in the region.

Figure C.1 Planning Process for Coordinated Transportation

