

Summary of Veterans Program Grants Awarded to CDOT November 2011

In late July, the Federal Transit Administration announced a new discretionary grant program, the **Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative**. The program was a response to a national effort to incorporate veterans' programs, which traditionally have been very segregated and "siloeed" from other human services programs, into existing transportation coordination efforts.

The FTA invited states and local agencies to apply for the VTCLI funding for capital costs associated with *implementing, expanding, or increasing* access to what the FTA calls "One-Call/One-Click Transportation Resource Centers." These Centers simplify public access to transportation by connecting customers to rides and transportation options provided by a variety of transportation providers, programs, and modes. The core emphasis of the VTCLI grant was transportation access to veterans and their families.

Colorado's Interagency Coordinating Council for Transportation Access and Mobility, which has been facilitated by CDOT since 2005, brings various state, federal, and local agencies together to address transportation coordination issues. The Council participates in the work of a statewide Veterans Transportation Task Force, which was formed initially by the Denver area's regional coordinating council, the Denver Regional Mobility and Access Council (DRMAC). Thanks to this Task Force's efforts, Colorado is far ahead of most other states in setting the stage for cooperative dialogue with veterans groups and agencies. CDOT submitted an application on behalf of four local and regional projects, believing a consolidated application would fare better than individual requests. Despite a short deadline for submittal, CDOT and the local agencies developed an excellent package of proposals.

DTR is pleased to announce that FTA funded all four projects. DTR will administer these grants and provide technical assistance to the projects, all of which are required to have a 20% local match. The four projects are as follows:

- Pikes Peak Area** Accessible Coordinated Transportation (ACT) will upgrade software for their joint dispatch and call center to improve outreach to the veterans' community. FTA amount: **\$362,500.**
- Western Slope** All Points Transit (APT), serving Montrose and Delta Counties, will upgrade software in its dispatch and call center to improve efficiency, thereby enhancing capabilities for scheduling rides for veterans service providers. **\$29,052.**
- Western Slope** Northwestern Colorado Council of Governments, serving a multi-county region, will develop a one-call/one-click and regional billing center. The center will enhance veterans transportation and provide a travel training program. **\$321,600.**
- Denver Area** Denver Regional Mobility and Access Council (DRMAC) will create a one-call/one-click center with an information and assistance function built on an existing database. It will implement a coordinated reservations and scheduling system, beginning with several regional providers in a pilot phase, and will be scalable. **\$613,580.**