



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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UMTA 122-74

Phone: (202) 426-4043

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) today announced the availability of a recently completed battery of employment tests for the selection of bus drivers. The tests are for use by transit operators in screening applicants and are specifically designed to reduce cultural bias in the selection process. They were developed over a four-year period by the transit industry with the help of an UMTA grant.

UMTA Administrator Frank C. Herringer noted that the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, Boston, Massachusetts was the project sponsor. Other transit industry representatives participating in developing the tests include the Cleveland Transit System (CTS), Cleveland, Ohio; Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA), Atlanta, Georgia; Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), and AC Transit of Oakland, California.

Unlike conventional tests, the newly developed battery has no problems to solve, no numbers to manipulate and no time limits. Instead, the applicant provides data about his interests, background, personal attributes and reactions in given situations. Analysis of these responses by a trained administrator will give a reliable indication of the applicant's potential for success as a bus operator.

These tests are not related to intercity bus driver qualification and preemployment testing requirements contained in the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations administered by DOT's Federal Highway Administration under its motor carrier safety regulatory program.

Transit properties desiring to use the new tests must designate one or more persons to be trained in their administration, scoring and interpretation. The training will be provided by the University of Chicago in an intensive two-day workshop. Dates for the first three workshop sessions are August 1 - 2, August 15 - 16, and August 29 - 30, 1974. The training cost of \$100 per person, is based on a class size of sixteen to twenty persons. Transportation to Chicago, room and board and other personal expenses are not included in the \$100 fee. Group rates are available.

Accommodations may be arranged through the University's Center for Continuing Education, 1307 East 60th Street, Chicago, Illinois, telephone (312) 753-4462. Reservations may be made and other workshop information obtained for Dr. Melany Baehr, Industrial Relations Center, University of Chicago, 1225 East 60th Street, Chicago, Illinois, 60637, telephone (312) 753-2018.

Upon completion of their training, test administrators will be certified by UMTA to order test sets including the necessary hand scoring forms, from the University at a cost of \$1.25 per battery. Prices for machine scoring materials will be furnished on request.

For further information about the test development project, contact Mr. A.B. Hallman, UMTA Office of Transit Management (202) 426-9157 or Dr. C.W. Higgins, Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, 500 Arborway, Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts 02130, (617) 722-6207 (UMTA Project No. MA-06-0011).