



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

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The Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) has announced the availability of interim guidelines for the implementation of Section 5 of the National Mass Transportation Assistance Act of 1974, which was signed by President Ford on November 26.

The Act, which amends the Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964, provides for a six year, \$11.8 billion program of capital and operating assistance for transit. The legislation is of great significance for the future of mass transportation, and represents a major opportunity to improve the quality of urban life. The legislation will be implemented in such a way as to maximize the decision-making process at the local level and to encourage cooperation at the State and local level in the transit decision-making process.

Section 5 of the National Mass Transportation Assistance Act of 1974 provides for almost \$4 billion which is available to urbanized areas on a formula basis for use in either capital or operating assistance. Monies used for capital improvement are at an up to 80 per cent Federal share, and monies used for operating assistance at an up to 50 per cent Federal share. Federal monies cannot be used, however, to replace State and local monies currently being expended on transit.

The interim regulations will be published in the Federal register for comment, and are available from the Urban Mass Transportation Administration's Office of Public Affairs, 400 South 7th Street, Washington, D.C. 20590, phone (202) 426-4043, in limited quantities.

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