



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

NEWS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR RELEASE THURSDAY
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UMTA 75-27
Phone: (202) 426-4043

Boston, Massachusetts, is the site of a public hearing for Northeastern states on proposed requirements for elderly and handicapped transportation services by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA).

The hearing will be held in Boston, at the John F. Kennedy Federal Building, Room 2003, Government Center. A daytime session begins at 9:30 a.m. and an evening session begins at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 17, 1975.

UMTA Administrator Frank C. Herringer said, "The proposed rules require local transportation planners and operating officials to develop specific plans and programs to meet the travel needs of the handicapped and elderly."

"The hearings are designed to develop information that will improve mobility and substantially benefit the nation's 20 million elderly, approximately a third of whom are handicapped and the more than 6 million persons under the age of 65 who suffer from handicaps that cause them difficulties in using mass transit systems." Herringer added.

UMTA proposals, many already in effect, include commencement of unified planning work program elements leading to the development of a regional plan for meeting the transportation needs of elderly and handicapped persons. The proposal includes requirements designed to improve accessibility to both fixed facilities and transit vehicles including standards with respect to features that are unique to transit facilities such as passenger pick-up and drop-off facilities, fare collection systems,

passenger information systems and boarding platforms. Also included are interior design features that will make transit use easier for the users by easing the physical demands that the vehicle makes on the passenger. The proposed regulations include the requirements of half-fare rates for elderly and handicapped persons riding during non-peak hours.

All interested persons are invited to attend the hearings, and each such person is invited to present oral or written statements concerning the proposed rule. Persons making oral statements are encouraged to submit the substance of their remarks in written form.

The hearing, informal in nature, will be conducted by a senior UMTA official representing the Administrator. Also, UMTA welcomes written comments on specific ways in which the proposed rule may be improved from those unable to attend the hearing. The comments may be submitted by mail to, and copies of the proposed regulations are available from the Urban Mass Transportation Administration, Office of the Chief Counsel, Docket No. 74-03, Room 9320, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590. All written communications received on or before April 30, 1975 will be considered.

Similar hearings are being held in Los Angeles, Denver, Chicago, St. Petersburg, and Washington, D.C.

Most of the requirements in the regulations will be effective 30 days after publication of the final regulations. Specific effective dates for accessibility requirements beyond the present state of the art, commercially unavailable or requiring additional product development, will be established as appropriate.

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For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043.



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