



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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The U.S. Department of Transportation Broadcast News Service for Tuesday, August 28 has a speech excerpt on mass transit and the final part of a Consumer Information Series.

First, Urban Mass Transportation Deputy Administrator John Hirten in a Denver speech today referred to the role of public transportation in the urban community:

"Unfortunately, the public looks upon transportation as an enterprise which should make money. If we don't expect our police or fire departments to finance themselves, why should we expect our public transportation systems to do so? Public transportation after all is a public utility, just as our city streets and roads are, and must be considered as a vital service."

Next, Ann Uccello, Director of the Office of Consumer Affairs, U.S. Department of Transportation comments on the meaning of the new, anti-tampering odometer law.

"If you purchase a vehicle and discover the odometer has been tampered with in violation of the law, your remedy lies in a civil action, not in a criminal action. Your suit may be presented in Federal District Courts or in State Courts.

"This law provides a penalty of three times the damages suffered or \$1500, which ever is greater, plus attorney's fees and court costs. In order to recover these amounts, you do not have to prove damages, but only to establish that your odometer was in error and that the seller (or person being sued) knew of the error and failed to disclose it; or made a false Disclosure Statement with the intent to defraud.

You do not have to report the violation to Federal authorities but, if you know of repeated violations of the Act, you are requested to notify the U.S. Attorney's office in your area, or the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 7th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590."

This has been the Transportation News Report. For further information on the new odometer law and its application call 202-426-0670.

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