



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

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Administrator Robert E. Patricelli of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) today announced a group of organizational changes designed to improve the agency's operational efficiency in dealing with its expanding responsibilities in urban mass transportation. The changes become effective March 3.

In announcing the reorganization, Patricelli cited the substantial increase in UMTA's programs in recent years -- from a level of \$978 million and 695 active projects in fiscal year 1973, to an estimated \$2.48 billion and 2,400 projects in fiscal year 1977.

Patricelli praised UMTA's performance under difficult conditions during this period, stating "it is time to update our organization structure in light of the changing and expanding demands on program resources."

The key changes include: (1) Strengthening the organizational role and management of the transportation service demonstration and transit management functions; (2) restructuring the management resources devoted to the alternatives analysis and transportation systems management activities; and (3) implementing a group of initiatives to simplify UMTA grant and procurement activities, thereby speeding up the processing of funding applications.

In addition, Patricelli made the first significant delegation of grant approval authority in UMTA's history, assigning to Associate Administrators grant decisions on planning (Section 9) grants for areas under 500,000 population, discretionary capital grants (Section 3) up to \$5 million in all non-rail areas, and formula grants (Section 5) in areas of up to one million population.

These are the major elements of the reorganization:

1. The Service and Methods Demonstration program (formerly in the Office of Transit Planning) and the Transit Management Office have been consolidated under a new Associate Administrator for Transportation Management and Demonstrations. This change is aimed at creating a comprehensive program stressing transportation systems management issues -- including demonstration programs aimed at preference techniques for transit vehicles and selected mechanisms to limit auto use -- and assistance to transit operators for improving their internal management and productivity.

Veteran UMTA official Robert McManus was named Associate Administrator to head the new unit. McManus also was given additional responsibility as General Associate Administrator of UMTA, in which role he will serve as special counselor to the Administrator on matters of organizational continuity and concerns of UMTA's career service.

2. The Office of Transit Planning, renamed the Office of Transportation Planning, has been given special responsibility for managing the alternatives analysis process.

3. The Office of Capital Assistance, renamed the Office of Transit Assistance, was reorganized internally to integrate management of the capital grant and formula grant programs around geographically oriented "transportation representatives."

4. The Office of the Deputy Administrator was assigned responsibility to manage the decentralization of selected UMTA functions to the 10 regional offices, and to undertake an immediate review and simplification of UMTA's procurement and third party contract review functions.

5. A special Program Review Task Force was established in the Office of the Administrator to simplify and integrate grant activities under the capital, formula and planning grant programs, and to simplify UMTA's grant application procedures. Bruce Barkley, who formerly directed UMTA's Transit Management Office, is leading this Task Force, which will report to the Administrator in 90 days.

6. The Office of Research and Development was assigned responsibility for technology development and qualification, systems assurance, and standardization matters within UMTA. This office will have primary responsibility for resolving problems affecting the bus and rail car supply industries. Patricelli noted that "this step reflects my view that this office should

develop strong expertise and participation throughout the whole process of technological development, including the critical deployment stage, supported by capital grant funding in appropriate instances."

In related actions, an Executive Secretariat was established to ensure policy compliance and internal coordination in communicating program and grant decisions. Limited changes also were announced in the organization and functions of the Office of Program and Policy Development to permit development of broad, multi-year program and resource allocation plans within UMTA, and in the Office of Civil Rights to strengthen UMTA's Title VI, Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Business Enterprise programs.

Personnel assignments related to these organization changes will be announced by the Administrator within 10 days.

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

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