



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# NEWS

## **URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION** WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Washington, D.C.--Small communities have transit systems unlike complex large urban mass transit networks, but the small community transit operations provide simple and germane services. The characteristics of 13 small transit operations are subjects of a series of Small City Transit Documents prepared for the Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) here by the Transportation Systems Center (TSC), Cambridge, Massachusetts.

The reports examine the process through which small communities have responded to specific needs for transit service within varying local contexts. Organizational, institutional and operational aspects of the case studies are summarized together with an analysis of some of the relationships between service, cost and community response.

The 13 communities covered in the series are:

- (1) Amherst, Massachusetts, free-fare, student operated transit in a university community;
- (2) Ann Arbor, Michigan, pilot dial-a-ride project in a sector of the city;
- (3) Bremerton, Washington, privately operated subscription bus service to an industrial site;
- (4) Chapel Hill, North Carolina, public transit serving a university and a town;
- (5) East Chicago, Indiana, free-fare transit in a high density industrialized area;

- (6) El Cajon, California, city-wide shared-ride taxi service;
- (7) Eugene/Springfield, Oregon, extensive county-wide transit coverage;
- (8) Evansville, Indiana, a low subsidy transit service;
- (9) Merced, California, dial-a-ride transit in an agricultural community;
- (10) Merrill, Wisconsin, point deviation service in a rural community;
- (11) Sudbury, Massachusetts, a short-lived suburban transit service;
- (12) Westport, Connecticut, comprehensive transit service in an affluent community; and
- (13) Xenia, Ohio, transit service for a rebuilding community.

The series of documents also includes an overview report and a summary of state aid programs.

These documents are being discussed at the "Public Transit for Small Communities" Seminars sponsored by UMTA's Office of Transportation Management and Demonstrations with assistance from TSC.

Also shown at the seminars is a film illustrating a variety of the innovative transit service options of four of the 13 documented communities--Westport, Merrill, El Cajon and Merced. The film will be available for public distribution in the Fall of 1976.

Seminars will be held at Westport, CT (Fine Arts II Theatre), on May 4, and at Boulder, Colo. (Sheraton Motor Inn), on May 11.

The seminars and the Small City Transit Documents are aimed at communities between 10,000 and 50,000 population in non-urbanized areas.

Attendance at the completed seminars exceeded UMTA estimates of 60 to 80. Seminar attendance was: Chapel Hill, N.C., 72; Evansville, IN, 118; Eugene, OR, 118; Merced, CA, 86.

At Westport, more than 200 have pre-registered, and pre-registration at Boulder exceeds 60.

The National Mass Transportation Act of 1974 provided up to \$500 million for exclusive use in non-urbanized areas during the six year period from 1975 through 1980. Such non-urbanized areas include cities, towns and rural places with less than 50,000 population. Funds are available for planning and program development activities, new innovative activities, vehicle acquisition and other capital investments in support of general or special transit services. including those services provided for elderly, handicapped and other transit-dependent persons.

For further information about the Small City Transit Documents (Report No. UMTA- MA-06-0049-76-1 to 15) write to UMTA, Transit Research Information Center, UMT-53, 2100 Second Street, S.W., Washington, D. C. 20590.

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