



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# NEWS

## URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20590

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
November 7, 1975

UMTA 75-105  
Phone: (202) 426-4043

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) today announced a \$47,200 grant to support a special conference in Williamsburg, Virginia, November 9-12. The conference will address the development of paratransit in the United States. Paratransit service includes all transit services falling between regular scheduled mass transit services and travel by private automobile. The conference is jointly sponsored by UMTA and the National Research Council's Transportation Research Board.

More than 100 representatives of the transit, taxicab, limousine, industry; organized labor; special consumer groups; such as elderly and handicapped; Federal, state and local governments and transportation experts have been invited to consult with the Federal government on the paratransit issue.

Paratransit is a family of transportation services that, generally using small-capacity vehicles is more flexible and personalized than conventional bus transit. They include such services as taxi, car and van pooling, subscription bus, dial-a-ride, shared-cab all of which may provide door to door service. Such service can supplement existing bus and rail transit systems in high density areas and serve low density areas where conventional transit would be uneconomical. Also, because of its flexibility paratransit may be instituted quickly under a wide variety of situations. Many urban areas see paratransit as an immediate opportunity to improve mass transportation services in their communities. In conjunction with fixed route service they can provide door-to-door service and serve as attractive alternatives to the automobile.

The conference, presided over by Conference Chairman Ronald F. Kirby of the Urban Institute, Washington, D. C. will consist primarily of six workshop sessions on a variety of paratransit topics. The participants, all knowledgeable in the field, will provide Federal, state and local governments with guidance and direction for implementing paratransit programs.

The conference proceedings are expected to cover in detail the issues, problems and proposed directions that are discussed during the conference. The publication will be of significant value to local governments, operators, and organizations interested in providing immediate improvements in public transportation service. Transcripts of the proceedings will be made available to the public early in 1976 by the Transportation Research Board.

- 0 -

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

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION  
ADMINISTRATION  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Official Business

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID  
URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION  
ADMINISTRATION  
DOT 511



FIRST CLASS