



**DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION**

**URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION  
ADMINISTRATION**

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**NEWS**

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UMTA 75-118  
Phone: (202) 426-4043

Minority high school students will be encouraged to consider a career in traffic and transportation engineering under an innovative program developed by the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE). Funded by a \$78,600 contract from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), the ITE also will encourage professional traffic engineering firms to seek and hire minority engineers.

The one year project, starting January 1, 1976 is being conducted by ITE (formerly the Institute of Traffic Engineers) and monitored by UMTA's Offices of Civil Rights and Transit Planning. It will include these tasks:

- 1) Development and implementation of a program at the high school level in cities around the country whereby students, aided by local ITE members, will solve real traffic problems in their own neighborhoods. By aiming at this age group, ITE hopes to interest students in traffic engineering and encourage them to elect the necessary math and science courses needed to prepare for an engineering education.

- 2) Development and implementation of new courses and special information programs in traffic and transportation engineering at engineering colleges with significant minority enrollments.

- 3) Development and implementation of a two-pronged information campaign about the ITE's program so other groups of professional engineers, planners and public administrators can learn and adapt the ITE activities to their own use.

Career guidance materials aimed at minority students also will be published and distributed.

Traffic and transportation engineering -- dealing with the planning, design, operations and maintenance of urban street networks and the movement of people and goods -- is concerned with problems frequently found where minority groups live. The profession has a significant impact on inner city land use activities as well as on the various transportation modes.

Despite the potential impact on minority neighborhoods, however, there are very few minority people in transportation engineering. Greater input from minority engineers could lead to more responsive and acceptable programs for a unified and coordinated urban transportation system as part of comprehensively planned urban development.

UMTA's funding of this ITE program is part of the effort by the entire engineering profession, industry and government to increase the number of minority engineering graduates each year from 500 to 5,000 in a period of 10 years.

The program also will enable potential UMTA grantees to more easily meet Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by increasing the likelihood that minority engineers and planners will be available to participate in planning activities and will assure greater opportunities for minority business enterprises when grantees are soliciting for consultant assistance on transit projects.

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For additional information, contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043 or Ms. Carol Powills, Equal Opportunities Committee of the Institute of Transportation Engineers, 1420 Ridge Avenue, Evanston, Illinois 60201, (312) 491-1000.

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