



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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Phone: (202) 426-4043

U.S. Secretary of Transportation William T. Coleman Jr., today announced the issuance of final regulations governing the planning and programming of urban transportation improvements under the programs administered by the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration and Federal Highway Administration. The regulations were published in the September 17, 1975, issue of the Federal Register.

The essential goal of the joint regulations, is to bring the highway and transit planning processes formally under one umbrella and to increase responsibility for planning and program decisions at the metropolitan level.

One of the most significant aspects of the regulations is the requirement to develop a transportation System Management (TSM) element as part of the overall transportation plan. The rationale underlying the concept of TSM is that automobiles, public transportation, taxis and pedestrians must be managed together in order to achieve maximum efficiency for the urban transportation system as a whole.

The joint regulations call on the Metropolitan Planning Organizations in each urbanized area to develop, in cooperation with the state and with mass transit operators a short range transportation improvement program with an annual element containing projects proposed for implementation during the year.

The TSM element is designed to address the short-term transportation needs of urban areas through more efficient use of existing transportation facilities. In developing the TSM plans, urban areas are expected to consider a wide range of actions such as preferential treatment for transit

and other high occupancy vehicles and reserved lanes on freeways and city streets. Management and control of parking, changes in work schedules, transit fare structure and automobile tolls to encourage off-peak use of transportation facilities, restrictions on automobile access to congested areas as well as various actions aimed at improving the availability, convenience, attractiveness and efficiency of public transit service are other items for consideration.

The inclusion of the recommended TSM projects in the annual element of the transportation improvement program, and the implementation of the programmed projects, will be a condition of future UMTA program approvals in urbanized areas with a population exceeding 200,000 people. This requirement supports the Department's objective to increase the productivity of existing transportation investment, conserve energy and improve the quality of urban public transportation service.

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For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043 or the FHWA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-0648.

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