



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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UMTA 77-05

EXPERIMENTAL FEDERAL PROGRAM TO IMPROVE MARTA PROJECT MANAGEMENT

A management experiment to develop improved working relationships between MARTA and the U.S. Department of Transportation was announced today by Robert E. Patricelli, and Charles F. Bingman, Administrator and Deputy Administrator of the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA).

The UMTA officials and Alan F. Kiepper, General Manager of MARTA, agreed on the new proposal management relationship to become effective immediately.

The Administrator said "under UMTA's full funding concept, we have put a fixed dollar limit on the federal funds to be provided to MARTA. It is therefore important that MARTA management have as much latitude as possible to control the construction program without unnecessary UMTA involvement or review. The intent of our experimental program is to join with MARTA management in regular quarterly program reviews which will identify potential problems as early as possible, and agree on the management measures which MARTA will employ to resolve them. UMTA will then be able to eliminate or drastically reduce its administrative review and approval of individual grant actions. This should substantially streamline our working relationships with MARTA and reduce the manpower needs in MARTA committed to meeting Federal paperwork requirements."

Patricelli estimated that the new approach would reduce MARTA's paperwork burdens, imposed by UMTA, by 80 percent.

"The MARTA rail construction project offers an excellent proving ground for the general management approach to project administration," Patricelli said. "We expect this experiment approach in Atlanta to become a major improvement in the manner in which UMTA grant programs are administered," he added.

Patricelli commended local officials on "the excellence of their management team," and noted that, "UMTA has entered into an agreement with MARTA on an experimental general approach to simplify and reduce Federal project oversight precisely because of the confidence we have developed in the quality of this local team."

A basic constituent of the new management approach is an annual Implementation Plan, prepared by the grantee, which defines the grantee's actual work intentions for the upcoming year.

The Implementation Plan will consist of a schedule of program actions, a funding schedule, a procurement plan and an audit plan. Against this annual Implementation Plan, MARTA will submit to UMTA quarterly reports relating to elements of the Plan and to specific Federal requirements such as civil rights, equal employment opportunity, minority business enterprise, elderly and handicapped services and other matters where UMTA has a role to assure compliance with Federal statutes and regulations.

A local source for additional information is Alan F. Kiepper, General Manager, Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority, 1300 Equitable Building, 100 Peachtree Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303. (404) 586-5000.

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