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UMTA 77-38

As part of the effort to speed Federal mass transit funds to communities, the U.S. Department of Transportation has awarded the first transportation technical studies grant approved by a Regional Federal official.

A Philadelphia Regional Director of the Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) approved the \$26,000 grant to the Central Virginia Planning District Commission in Lynchburg, Virginia, for transportation planning activities.

The grant will enable the Commission to continue the on-going planning process, refine short-range transit planning and determine the interrelationship of mass transit to other regionwide activities.

Until today only the UMTA headquarters organization in Washington, D.C. was authorized to approve grant applications and commit funds for technical studies, capital and operating assistance. This involved the examination and approval of several hundred grants, including about 300 Section 9 technical studies grants.

The delegation of authority to UMTA's ten regional directors to approve and commit funds for technical studies grants to urbanized areas of less than 200,000 population are being made in order to speed the flow of grant funds to communities.

The Lynchburg grant was approved by the Director of UMTA's Region III office in Philadelphia as soon as the new delegation authority became effective.

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For additional information on the grant, contact William Hibbert III, executive director, Central Virginia Planning District Commission, P.O. Box 2526, 2511 Memorial Avenue, Lynchburg, Virginia, telephone (804) 845-3491. (UMTA Project No. VA-09-0029)

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