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FOUR TRANSIT OPERATORS
GET PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

Four communities today received the Administrator's Award for Outstanding Public Service from Richard S. Page, Administrator, U.S. Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA).

The awards went to Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District, San Francisco, California; the City of Knoxville and the Transportation Center of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville; the Port Authority Transit Corporation (PATCO), Camden, New Jersey; and the City and Transit District of Westport, Connecticut.

In making the awards at the American Public Transit Association meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, Page said, "These awards reflect a growing concern to provide viable and efficient transportation alternatives and options. The time has come," he added, "to recognize the accomplishments of the transit community for providing innovative and new service concepts to meet the mobility needs of large and small, urban and suburban communities."

The Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District award recognizes the innovative multi-modal approach to the movement of people in the San Francisco Bay area. Preferential bus lanes, bridge toll pricing, carpools, subscription bus service and expanded commuter ferry service now provide commuters with transportation options where none had existed.

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The City of Knoxville and the Transportation Center at the University of Tennessee received the Administrator's Award for implementation of the new concept of transportation broker. The University, serving as the transportation broker for the city, was instrumental in overcoming many institutional issues which might have stymied the program. A transportation broker matches the transit rider's need with the proper transportation mode; that could be a taxi, bus or another mode or combination of modes.

PATCO was chosen for an award for its efficient management and cost saving construction in providing a viable alternative to automobile travel in the 14.5 mile commuter rail corridor between Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and southern New Jersey. PATCO's Lindenwold Line has the highest operating revenue/cost ratio among rail and bus transit systems in the nation because of its cost effective design, construction and operational features.

The City of Westport and the Westport Transit District have displayed initiative in providing innovative mobility in a low-density community. The fixed route bus system, including special peak hour service to commuter rail stations, the use of prepaid transit fare passes and the innovative use of taxis to supplement traditional transit service have met the community's needs for efficient and cost effective transportation alternatives.

"UMTA has provided considerable financial assistance for transportation improvements in these award winning communities," Page said. "I am gratified by the local initiative displayed in these communities in providing improved travel alternatives."

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