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## DECENTRALIZATION SPEEDS DOT GRANT PROCESS

In a move to cut costs, government red tape and time delays to the people it serves, the U.S. Department of Transportation today announced a major decentralization in its Urban Mass Transportation Administration.

Richard S. Page, Administrator of the federal transit agency, said the grant approval process will be speeded up considerably with the transfer of many of the agency's functions to field offices in the ten federal regions.

"When each office becomes operational," said Page, "all planning, capital and operating assistance applications, as well as other bookkeeping and information related inquiries should be submitted directly to the appropriate regional office."

Page said March 31, 1978 is the effective date for full operational status in five regions; Boston, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Ft. Worth and Chicago. The remaining five; New York, Kansas City, Denver, San Francisco and Seattle are now staffing and also will be fully decentralized in the coming months.

The new program will allow UMTA Regional Directors to exercise full authority over most mass transit grants. The Washington headquarters office will retain authority over grants to metropolitan areas of more than one million population and certain other grants.

Page also said, "Decentralization provides for more local discretion, better coordination with other Department of Transportation programs, and generally improves the effectiveness in administering the urban mass transportation program."

For additional information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs, 400 7th St., S.W. Washington, D.C. 20590.

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