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Contact: Karen Lyden
Phone: (202) 426-4043

REGIONAL MEETINGS DESIGNED TO IMPROVE TRANSIT OPERATIONS

Methods to improve transit productivity and performance will be discussed at five regional meetings to be sponsored by the U.S. Department of Transportation.

"Improving transit performance and productivity is of immediate and critical importance as the gap between farebox revenues and operating costs grows steadily wider," said Richard Page, Administrator of DOT's Urban Mass Transportation Administration.

The five meetings scheduled for the first half of 1979, will bring together more than 1,000 members of the transit community, including transit operators, members of local transit boards, officials of local state and federal governments, and transit labor union representatives, to discuss transit issues.

Cooperating in the meetings are the Urban Consortium, Public Technology Inc., the American Public Transit Association, and the Intergovernmental Science, Engineering and Technology Advisory Panel.

"It is important that members of transit boards and officials of federal, state and local governments who determine public policy and allocate resources understand the effects of their decisions, and that they develop methods to measure the efficiency and effectiveness of the transit systems that serve the public," Page pointed out.

The two-day meetings will be organized according to five major categories: measurements and indicators; labor-management relations; internal management; service levels; and transit financing policies. Special intensive sessions also will be held on selected regional topics. A Transit Actions booklet will be compiled and distributed at the close of the sessions.

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The meetings will be held January 10-11 in Los Angeles; February 6-7 in San Francisco; March 14-15 in Atlanta; April 9-10 in Detroit; and May 21-22 in Boston.

Administrator Page will address the Los Angeles meeting. Other invited speakers there are Richard Smith, Dallas city councilman and chairman of the Transportation Committee of the National League of Cities; Baxter Ward, supervisor, Los Angeles County; Marvin L. Holen, president of the board, Southern California Rapid Transit District; and Mayor Margaret Hance of Phoenix, who also is a member of the President's Intergovernmental Science, Engineering and Technology Advisory Panel.

The keynote speaker at the San Francisco meeting will be UMTA Deputy Administrator Charles Bingman. Other expected speakers are San Jose city Councilman James Self, who is a member of the Urban Consortium Transportation Task Force; California assemblyman Walter Ingalls; and Rodney Diridon, Chairman, Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors and President, Association of Bay Area Governments.

Agendas for the Atlanta, Detroit and Boston Transit Actions Regional Meetings are not yet completed.

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