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LOS ANGELES STUDIES METHODS TO REDUCE CAR COMMUTING

LOS ANGELES -- The U.S. Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration today announced the award of \$520,689 to Los Angeles, Calif., to conduct parking management and city employee transit incentive studies.

In making the announcement with Mayor Tom Bradley at City Hall, UMTA Administrator Theodore C. Lutz pointed out that the proposed projects are an important element in the department's overall ridesharing/energy conservation program.

The department's program is being spearheaded by a National Task Force on Ridesharing appointed by President Carter last fall. Mayor Bradley is the Task Force chairman.

"The work involved in completing these projects will be of direct benefit to the citizens of Los Angeles by reducing congestion and fostering practices that will cut dependency on the single occupancy auto, they also will serve as a model for the rest of the country as we fight to reduce our consumption of imported oil," Lutz said.

The Parking Management Program is designed to encourage businesses to provide incentives to employees to change to high-occupancy vehicle for commuting and thereby reduce the need for employee parking.

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The City Employee Program will develop procedures to reward employees for using transit, carpools and vanpools for commuting trips. The study will investigate ways in which the city and transit operators, working together, can implement the program.

The two programs are sponsored by UMTA's Service and Methods Demonstration Office. They have the common objectives of encouraging the use of available mass transit services and high occupancy vehicles to reduce the number of single occupant vehicles used for commuting in the Los Angeles metropolitan area.

Administrator Lutz added, "UMTA will work closely with Los Angeles city officials during the next year. These studies will make a significant difference in reducing fuel consumption and in the way we plan our cities and our lifestyles during the next decade.

A local source for additional information is Graham Smith, Project Coordinator, City Hall, Los Angeles, Calif., telephone (213) 485-3365.

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