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DOT WILL FUND URBAN PROGRAMS IN SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT'S POLICY

Transit-related projects that contribute to the revitalization of the nation's cities are eligible for funding under a new \$200 million Urban Initiatives Program, Secretary of Transportation Brock Adams and Jack Watson, Assistant to the President for Intergovernmental Affairs, announced today.

This program was included in the Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1978, which was submitted by the Administration and enacted by the Congress last year.

The program will be administered by the department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration, which will coordinate financial assistance for mass transit projects with urban investment plans of other federal agencies, private industry and local communities.

"Under this program," Secretary Adams said, "UMTA will help finance transit-related projects, such as joint development, intermodal terminals and transit malls, to help improve our cities and provide employment opportunities to long-term unemployed and disadvantaged people in urban areas."

The program follows the guidelines established in March 1978 by President Carter's Urban Policy.

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"That program is building a new partnership involving all levels of government, the private sector, neighborhoods and volunteer organizations in a major effort to make America's cities better places in which to live and work," Watson said.

"The Urban Initiatives Program," Adams added, "takes into account a new potential for solving the problems of living and getting around in our communities -- namely the combining of federal aid for urban redevelopment and federal aid for transportation."

UMTA Administrator Richard S. Page noted that, "UMTA will coordinate financial assistance, wherever possible, with projects from other federal agencies such as the U.S. Departments of Housing and Urban Development, Commerce and Interior, as well as others seeking to implement the President's program."

Categories of projects to be funded under the new program include the following:

- Joint Development -- integrating public transit with housing and commercial development. Aspects of downtown "people movers," new starts and extensions related to development around station areas will be funded under this program.
- Intermodal Transfer Facilities -- connecting various forms of transportation within the city such as bus and rail, taxi and auto parking.
- Transit Malls -- improving streets for pedestrian use while maintaining roadways reserved for transit vehicles.

Applications for Urban Initiatives Program grants will be accepted and processed through UMTA's 10 regional offices. The most promising projects will be referred to UMTA headquarters for national competition.

Projects selected will be those which best meet the UMTA criteria and contribute most to the achievement of the President's Urban Policy objectives.

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