



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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The U. S. Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) today announced a contract to develop a family of system safety guideline documents. The subcontract award was made to the Battelle Columbus Laboratories, Columbus, Ohio by the Naval Underwater Systems Center (NUSC) Newport, Rhode Island. NUSC is under contract to UMTA.

In announcing the award Secretary of Transportation Claude S. Brinegar commented that the guideline documents will assist UMTA, its contractors, and UMTA project sponsors as well as the transit industry in general. "The new safety guideline documents will help ensure that the optimum level of operational safety consistent with operational availability is accrued to mass transportation systems by the explicit and systematic consideration of safety during the research, definition, design and acquisition phases of systems development," Secretary Brinegar said.

Frank C. Herringer, UMTA Administrator, noted that UMTA will accelerate actions to encourage the acquisition of an identified organizational system safety/system availability capability, the development and execution of related programs by UMTA contractors and Grant Project Sponsors pending release of the documents around July of 1974. "The primary emphasis of the UMTA actions will be on contracts and grants for new systems development. Secondary emphasis will be on grants for expansion of existing systems or replacement and

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refurbishment of existing systems components. Interim general guidelines are in preparation for negotiating mutually acceptable programs with Grant Project Sponsors, " Herringer said.

The announced activities are consistent with the basic safety policy of the Department of Transportation to provide the highest practicable level of safety for people, property, and the environment associated with or exposed to the nation's transportation systems. The Department recognizes safety as a primary management responsibility and as a major factor in the management decision making process. The activities also support the UMTA long-term goal to improve urban life and the urban environment by means of mass transportation systems, providing safe, fast, attractive, and convenient services as efficiently and economically as possible. In addition, they are in keeping with the transit industry's continuing emphasis on the provision of safe and reliable transit systems.

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