NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

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UMTA 73-85 Phone: (202) 426-4043

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Urban Mass

Transportation Administrator Frank C. Herringer today announced organizational changes designed to improve the efficiency of UMTA in meeting the challenges of improving the nation's urban transportation.

The changes became effective on September 10.

Most notable among the changes was the creation of two entirely new offices, the Office of Transit Planning, and the Office of Transit Management. In addition, a rearrangement of responsibilities was effected within the Office of Program Operations, renamed the Office of Capital Assistance, and the Office of Research, Development and Demonstration, renamed the Office of Research and Development.

In announcing the reorganization, Administrator Herringer said: "By creating additional staff offices and by restructuring others, we will be able to align the skills needed for the most efficient management of all our programs."

Under the new organization, the Office of Transit Planning will provide assistance in transportation planning, engineering, and transit improvement. It will take over the technical studies grant functions of the former Office of Program Operations, the demonstration functions of the former Office of Research, Development and Demonstration, and the service development activities of the Office of Civil Rights. This Office will be headed by Robert H. McManus as Acting Associate Administrator.

The new Office of Transit Management under Acting Director John Paul Jones, will work closely with State and local transit organizations in developing methods of modernizing and improving transit operations and management. Special emphasis will be directed towards transportation marketing and safety programs.

The Office of Capital Assistance, with Jerome C. Premo as Acting Associate Administrator will handle all the Federal capital grants and loans formerly administered by the Office of Program Operations. These will include the acquisition of equipment and facilities, construction and improvement grants and loans for the advance acquisition of real property.

Other Offices within UMTA are the Office of Civil Rights, the Office of the Chief Counsel, the Office of Public Affairs, the Office of Program Planning and the Office of Administration.

In concluding the reorganization announcement, Herringer noted that: "Our objectives are to create an organization that can be more flexible in addressing mass transportation problems, that is more responsive in dealing with local authorities, and that facilitates improved managerial control within the Urban Mass Transportation Administration.

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