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Office of Assistant Secretary for Governmental and Public Affairs

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DOT TRANSIT MALL
REPORT AVAILABLE

A new report on downtown transit malls in Minneapolis, Philadelphia and Portland, Ore., that have contributed to downtown revitalization is available from the U.S. Department of Transportation.

A transit mall is a street which has been improved for pedestrian use but retains a roadway reserved for transit vehicles integrated with the regional transit system. Access for automobiles is denied or strictly limited, except for cross street traffic.

The report describes transit mall costs, maintenance, and their effect on transit vehicle travel time and reliability, air and noise pollution, pedestrian safety, parking, and the retail sales and downtown development.

Transit malls are among the projects eligible for federal funds under the department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration's Urban Initiatives Program. The program was authorized by Congress as part of the Surface Transportation Act of 1978.

Transit malls are being constructed, planned or studied in Chicago, Buffalo, Denver, New York (Manhattan and Brooklyn), Providence, Syracuse, Rochester, Columbus, St. Louis and Detroit.

The report -- "Streets for Pedestrians and Transit: An Evaluation of Three Transit Malls in the United States" -- is available without charge by writing to: Urban Mass Transportation Administration, Office of Service and Methods Demonstrations, UPM-30, 2100 2nd Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590 (202) 426-4984.

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