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FEDERAL TRANSIT AGENCY TO DEVELOP NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC DATA BASE

Gordon J. Linton, Administrator of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), today announced a three-year plan to develop a transit data base that will contain national statistics and selected information on local transportation systems and operations.

Called the national transit Geographic Information System (GIS), it will assist all segments of the transportation industry in a broad range of activities.

"A wide array of transit information will be readily accessible to help local and regional transportation officials improve mobility options for their customers," Linton said. "The data will be useful for planning and marketing efforts, as well as operations, analysis, facilities maintenance and evaluation of current and proposed transportation facilities. Transportation managers at various levels will be able to adapt the system's information to their specific needs."

The GIS will include geographic information based on street segments identified by the U.S. Census Bureau, as well as the boundaries of states, counties and urbanized areas. The data collected will be used to support the National Transportation System, the Department of Transportation's strategic plan to coordinate all modes of transportation in the country. DOT's Bureau of Transportation Statistics is charged with leading this national effort.

It will also contain transit data such as population served, ridership, passenger miles and route/rail miles. The information will be available for all modes of public transportation, including rural and urban bus systems, commuter rail, subways, light rail, rapid rail, HOV (high occupancy vehicle) roadways and transitways.

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"The agency will be contacting all transit agencies in the near future to obtain information. We hope to begin partial operation in October, and are aiming for completion of the data base in three more years," Linton said.

Anyone seeking more information on GIS should contact Walter Kulyk at (202) 366-4991.

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**Federal Transit
Administration**

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