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## DOT ANNOUNCES STREAMLINED PROCEDURES FOR MASS TRANSIT GRANTS

Federal Transit Administrator Gordon J. Linton today announced new and more streamlined procedures for federal mass transit grants.

"We are rescinding the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) previous policy statement and implementation guidelines governing participation by private enterprise in federally-assisted mass transit programs and projects," Linton said. "While we continue to value private sector participation, it is time to empower state and local officials to make decisions without forcing them to follow a complex set of bureaucratic procedures drawn up in Washington."

In late November, the Department announced its intention to rescind the policy and guidelines and sought public comment. A review of more than 400 responses led the FTA to today's action.

Provisions of the Federal Transit Act encourage participation in federally-assisted mass transit programs and projects by the private sector; nothing in today's announcement changes these statutory provisions.

"The impact of this policy change is expected to eliminate procedures that are no longer needed and recognize that state and local officials will act in their own best interest," Administrator Linton said.

Under the policy and guidelines being rescinded, public mass transit agencies receiving federal assistance were required to review each of their bus routes once every three years and determine if any routes were candidates for potential conversion to private sector operation.

Also eliminated are requirements for use of a specific cost-accounting technique as well as a complex level of review by the FTA.

The action announced today will be effective in 30 days.

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**Federal Transit  
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