



U.S. Department of
Transportation

News:

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20590

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, July 1, 1992

FTA 08-92
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**SECRETARY CARD ANNOUNCES GRANT
FOR TRANSIT TRAVELER CENTER
DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS**

Secretary of Transportation Andrew H. Card Jr. announced the approval of a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant to the National Association of Neighborhoods (NAN) in the amount of \$537,196, to develop plans for local centers that will provide support services to small transit operators.

Each of the four Transit Traveler Centers (TTCs), at sites to be selected, will handle services such as telephone answering, dispatching and billing for a number of local transit companies.

"The centers will provide the support system necessary to make small businesses viable in a big business operating environment," Card said. "These firms then can provide a valuable link between public transit and potential riders whose work or residence is not close to bus or rail stops."

Many of the operators using a TTC will offer demand-responsive services for inner city residents, the disabled, and those living in public housing. Other small firms will provide shuttles on a subscription basis between home and rail or bus stations for suburban commuters, especially during off-peak hours.

"TTCs will be especially valuable to neighborhood-based transit services, such as those operated by public housing tenant associations," Card said. "Although they usually have little difficulty obtaining the vehicles, their efforts are often blocked by the administrative costs, a burden they will share with others through the TTC."

Cities being considered as demonstration sites include Los Angeles, Atlanta and Washington. NAN will work in partnership with International Dispatch Services, Inc. (IDS), a minority-owned and operated firm.

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