



**U.S. Department of
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UMTA 09-91
Contact: UMTA Jerry Brown
Tel.: (202) 366-4043
Contact: FHWA Tom Jasien
Tel.: (202) 366-0660

FHWA AND UMTA LAUNCH PROGRAM TO COMBAT TRAFFIC CONGESTION

Two Department of Transportation agencies -- the Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) -- have launched a joint program to reduce traffic congestion and promote alternatives to single-occupant automobile travel.

A FHWA-UMTA task force has selected 12 intermodal projects that are innovative, cost effective and capable of being quickly implemented. The two agencies have set aside \$1.5 million to support these efforts.

Secretary of Transportation Samuel K. Skinner said, "These projects will show how different communities can reduce traffic congestion through the use of better transportation management strategies. They include such features as intelligent vehicle highway systems (IVHS); better management of facilities that serve buses, carpools and vanpools; and, even something as simple as preferential parking at transit stations for people in carpools or vanpools."

The 12 projects, ranging in amounts from \$45,000 to \$337,500, include a centralized communications facility to connect Boston area police, news media and bus companies in the event of traffic accidents; special parking programs that increase high occupancy vehicle (HOV) use in Baltimore, Seattle and Los Angeles; and, commuter vanpools for workers with disabilities in the Greenville, S.C. area.

Final project funding must await the signing of a cooperative agreement for each proposal. FHWA and UMTA regional offices will jointly administer each project.

The projects are located in the following metropolitan areas: Seattle (two projects); San Francisco/Oakland; Los Angeles; Chicago (two projects); Detroit; Greenville, S.C.; Pittsburgh; Philadelphia; Baltimore and Boston.

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**Urban Mass
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