



U.S. Department of
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**DOT ANNOUNCES SERIES OF HEARINGS
ON AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**

The Department of Transportation has announced a series of six public hearings to solicit comments on DOT's proposed rule governing transportation for individuals with disabilities.

The new rule was proposed as part of the implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). Each of the hearings, which will be conducted by the department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), will take place in a different city between April 23 and May 9.

"These hearings are a vital step in our efforts to implement the ADA," said UMTA Administrator Brian W. Clymer. "Making the benefits of transportation available to all Americans, including disabled citizens, is a major objective of the Administration's National Transportation Policy. Indeed, the agency is committed to working with transportation providers to increase access and mobility for the disabled."

The proposed rule includes new sections on the definition of comparable paratransit service and on criteria for transit operators to request and receive an "undue financial burden" waiver from providing comparable paratransit service. Paratransit service includes alternative forms of public transportation, such as door-to-door van service.

"The hearings are designed to give all interested individuals a chance to help us shape the rule. All statements and materials received at the hearings will become part of the official rulemaking docket," Clymer said. "Written statements mailed to UMTA will also become part of the docket."

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Sign and oral interpretation will be available at each hearing, as well as an assistive listening device.

The scheduled public hearings include (times given are local times):

1. April 23, 9:00 a.m., Hyatt Regency Hotel, Crown Center, 2345 McGee St., San Francisco Room, Kansas City, Mo.
2. April 25, 9:00 a.m., University of Washington, Husky Union Building, West Ballroom, Seattle.
3. April 30, 9:00 a.m., Westwood Plaza Holiday Inn, 10740 Wilshire Blvd., Presidents Rooms A&B, Los Angeles.
4. May 7, 9:00 a.m., Jacob Javits Building, 26 Federal Plaza, Room 305, New York City.
5. May 8, 9:00 a.m., New Orleans Marriott, 555 Canal St., LaGalerie 3, New Orleans.
6. May 9, 9:00 a.m., Department of Labor, Great Hall, 200 Constitution Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C.

Written comments, and questions about the hearings, including requests to speak at any of the hearings, should be addressed to UMTA, U.S. Department of Transportation, Office of the Chief Counsel, Room 9316, ATTN: Hearings, 400 7th Street S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590, Phone: (202) 366-4063, ATTN: Holly Vandervort. Copies of the proposed rule, which is available in other accessible formats, may also be obtained from the UMTA Office of Chief Counsel.

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**Urban Mass
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