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**MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING UNITES
UMTA, ADMINISTRATION ON AGING
IN TRANSPORTATION EFFORT**

The federal commitment to improve transportation for the nation's senior citizens was reinforced today with the signing of an Interagency Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) by Brian W. Clymer, Administrator of the Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) and Joyce T. Berry, the U.S. Commissioner on Aging.

Both officials said the new document builds on the foundation of cooperation that their two agencies have forged during the past two years in an effort to improve coordination of federal transportation programs serving senior citizens.

"It also signals the Administration's renewed determination to see that our nation's elderly citizens, like other Americans, can count on transportation services as a reliable way to enhance the quality of their lives," Clymer said. "For example, we will be examining the mobility needs of elderly American Indians who don't live on reservations and who need transportation to health care or nutrition services."

Berry emphasized the benefits of interagency coordination. "It will help us develop methods to improve the coordination of transportation services with special emphasis on low-income, minority, disabled, rural, and other hard to reach older persons," she said. "We are particularly interested in involving the private sector in future efforts to make such services even more responsive and reliable."

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Clymer said the MOU also reflects the thrust of the National Transportation Policy recently announced by the President and Secretary of Transportation Samuel K. Skinner.

"This joint effort will work to enhance our seniors' quality of life, forge partnerships between the public and private sectors, and develop volunteer transportation services in rural areas," Clymer said. "It is also designed to stimulate progress in transportation technology and management, which we believe will broaden and strengthen the financial base necessary to serve those with special transportation needs."

Berry said the MOU also anticipates that information gathered or developed as part of this program will be shared with all agencies and individuals who are committed to providing transportation for elderly and handicapped people.

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**Urban Mass
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