



U.S. Department of  
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**UMTA DISTRIBUTES SAFE DRIVER COURSE  
FOR RURAL AND SPECIALIZED OPERATORS**

The Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) has begun distribution of a comprehensive safety training program for transit drivers who carry elderly and handicapped passengers or who operate in rural communities.

The completion of this important safety training program was made a top priority by UMTA last year. Known as STARTS (for Specialized Transit and Rural Transit Safety), the program was designed to meet the safety training needs of rural and specialized operators. This newly released material will greatly enhance the training of drivers and other personnel throughout the nation because it will be comprehensive and standardized.

UMTA said the material was carefully reviewed by the Rural Transit Assistance Program (RTAP) National Program Advisory Board, which is made up of rural transit operators and state department of transportation representatives. UMTA provided the funding and technical assistance for the development of the training program.

The states' departments of transportation will receive materials for distribution to rural and specialized transit operators, including manuals and audio-visual materials. Each state is encouraged to provide its rural and specialized operators a copy of the materials as well as a program to meet their unique training needs.

This effort is part of UMTA's overall safety program and is designed to ensure that mass transportation is not only convenient, but safe.

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