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**DELLIBOVI ANNOUNCES NATIONAL
RURAL TRANSIT GRANT TO
AMERICAN PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION**

Alfred A. DelliBovi, Administrator of the Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), has announced a \$712,500 grant to extend a cooperative effort to develop the agency's Rural Transportation Assistance Program (RTAP).

Congress authorized the creation of the Rural Transit Assistance Program in October 1986. The purpose of the program is to foster coordination of training, technical assistance, research and other support services to improve the delivery of transit services to rural communities.

"This grant extends for one year the agreement between UMTA and the American Public Works Association (APWA), which will continue to manage development of the agency's RTAP national program," said DelliBovi.

DelliBovi explained that APWA, along with Rural America, a non-profit organization specializing in rural technical assistance, and the National Association for Transportation Alternatives (NASTA), make up a consortium of rural transit organizations that are working on various facets of the Urban Mass Transportation Administration's RTAP national program.

(more)

"We have had a very productive first year," DelliBovi said. "A 15 member advisory board made up of state DOT officials and rural operators has been established to identify technical assistance needs; a national RTAP Resource Center and hotline (800-727-8279) has been established; and a peer-to peer network for rural operators has been established. This year the program will concentrate on the development of the training resources which the Advisory Committee has identified as being the most important initial step."

APWA will develop three training modules and update the catalogue of existing materials. It will also continue to provide outreach to rural communities by making presentations at state and national rural transportation conferences, and by publishing the RTAP National Program Bulletin.

Development of the RTAP National Resource Center will continue to be the responsibility of Rural America. The center will further develop its databank, expand a hot line service, and publish analyses of innovative state and local programs in rural transportation. It will also add an electronic bulletin board.

NASTA will continue its work on a technical assistance network through which rural operators help one another. It will also develop and implement training workshops tailored to the needs of state transit associations and state departments of transportation.

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