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UMTA ANNOUNCES NEW PROGRAM TO ENCOURAGE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH

A revamped program to spur academic research into problems facing urban and rural transit was announced today by Urban Mass Transportation Administrator Alfred A. DelliBovi.

"The university research program is a true partnership between institutions of higher learning and public transit providers," DelliBovi said. "Our hope is that it will foster improvements in management and innovation, two issues that are critical to the future of the transit industry in America."

DelliBovi said the Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) will award up to \$750,000 in grants to accredited institutions of higher learning for research activities in the field of transportation analysis, management and operations, as well as professional training.

"The program will encourage active participation in transit by institutions which should serve as sources of advice and information for local transit systems," he said. "Along the way, we hope to attract more of the nation's young academic talent into the mass transportation field."

DelliBovi said the program is designed to stimulate research and training to support UMTA activities and to strengthen the involvement of state and local authorities in planning, constructing and evaluating transportation services.

(more)

In addition, the program will encourage universities to become sources of information on community transportation projects and assist in the training of individuals already involved in public transportation. General topics for research funding include suburban mobility, development of business plans for public/private operations, fare loss, cooperative study and internship.

Inquiries on the grant application process should be addressed to UMTA's Office of Technical Assistance and Safety, 400 7th Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20590.

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**Urban Mass
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