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UMTA AWARDS \$16 MILLION IN MASS TRANSIT GRANTS

The Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) today announced its intent to award more than \$16 million in transit assistance grants for projects across the country, including some special studies of transit problems.

UMTA Administrator Alfred A. DelliBovi said the grants would also fund a variety of public transportation projects in non-urbanized areas and would make funds available for programs designed exclusively for elderly and handicapped individuals.

These grants have been approved under an expedited process which has proven successful in delivering funds to UMTA grantees as quickly as possible. DelliBovi said the grants management system has had other beneficial results as well. "Grant applications have been better written and more responsive to federal guidelines than ever before," he said.

In addition to the planning grants, more than \$7.5 million will be awarded to state agencies for distribution to non-profit organizations which provide transportation services to elderly and handicapped persons. These funds can be used for purposes like the purchase of vehicles designed with special features such as wheelchair lifts and other equipment necessary for transportation of elderly and handicapped persons and for other capital and administrative costs.

Also, more than \$7.5 million will be awarded for statewide public transportation projects and services in rural and small urban areas. These funds cover capital and administrative costs and planning and operating assistance, with a match by state and local agencies.

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**Urban Mass
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