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BRITISH AND U.S. TRANSPORTATION
CHIEFS TO SPEAK AT UMTA'S FOURTH
SYMPOSIUM ON THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Alfred A. DelliBovi, Administrator of the Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), has announced that Secretary of Transportation Jim Burnley and David Mitchell, Great Britain's Minister of State for Transport, will address UMTA's Fourth Annual Symposium on the Private Sector and Public Transit, which will be held in New Orleans March 7-9.

"The appearance of both the U.S. and British cabinet secretaries for transportation at this conference reflects the importance of the private sector's role in public transit," DelliBovi said. "It also demonstrates that challenges and solutions to the problems of transit cross national boundaries."

DelliBovi said the active participation of Secretary Burnley -- America's highest ranking transportation official -- "signals our determination to make competition and public-private cooperation accepted tools for those in the transit industry."

"We also are delighted to have a speaker with Mr. Mitchell's breadth of knowledge and experience," DelliBovi said. "With UMTA's growing interest in creating small business and employment opportunities in the transit industry, his combined background in labor, small business and transit issues is particularly appropriate."

Mitchell will speak on the British experience in privatization of public transport. A former member of the Transport and General Workers' Union, he was first elected to parliament in 1964.

(more)

Following the Conservative victory in 1979, he was appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Industry, with special responsibility for the Margaret Thatcher government's small business policy. In 1983, he was appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary for Transport and, in September 1985, was named to the post of Minister of State for Public Transport.

In 1986, Mitchell was elevated to the position of Minister of State for Transport, and is responsible for railways, buses, taxis, London Regional Transport, the Channel Fixed Link, and the export of transport expertise.

The UMTA symposium is expected to draw more than 700 participants, including experts in all phases of transportation policy, financing, operations and research. It is being cosponsored by 26 groups representing public and private transit operators, state legislators, local officials, neighborhood groups, and minorities.

Topics to be covered include the growth of competition in mass transportation, transit infrastructure financing and improved suburban mobility. There will also be special sessions for state legislators, transit policy board members, and small entrepreneurs, especially minority and women-owned firms.

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