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COMPETITION IN TRANSIT MOVES TO CENTER STAGE WITH UMTA'S 4TH CONFERENCE

The business of transit in America moves center stage on March 7 in New Orleans with the convening of the Urban Mass Transportation Administration's (UMTA) Fourth Annual Symposium on the Private Sector and Public Transit.

An international array of transportation experts, including Secretary of Transportation Jim Burnley, will take part in the three-day conference, sharing ideas and expertise, according to UMTA Administrator Alfred A. DelliBovi.

"This annual event highlights the Reagan Administration's continuing commitment to competition and private investment in public transportation," DelliBovi said. "The symposium also demonstrates the growing realization that creativity and competition are valuable tools in mass transit."

As the symposium has grown to become UMTA's most important conference, so has the number of participants increased. This year, more than 700 experts from business, labor and government at all levels are expected to take part in conference sessions devoted to a diverse range of topics.

"We have moved beyond the basic debate to a consideration of ways in which competition and public-private cooperation can improve public transit, save taxpayers' dollars and create new business and employment opportunities," DelliBovi said.

(more)

DelliBovi said the shift in emphasis is reflected by the fact that this year's symposium is being co-sponsored by 26 organizations. These groups represent both public and private transit operators, state legislators, city officials, neighborhood associations and others with an interest in improving transportation in American cities and suburbs.

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

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