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## UMTA ACTS TO EASE PAPERWORK IN DATA REPORTING REQUIREMENT

The Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) has issued regulations designed to ease the burden of data collection by public transit agencies.

UMTA Deputy Administrator Alfred A. DelliBovi said the new regulations could mean a 23 percent reduction in man-hours needed to collect and report data involving the category of "passenger miles." At the same time, he said, timely reporting of information which remains necessary is encouraged for the first time by the imposition of substantial penalties on late-filers.

"Our intention is to become more efficient in the delivery of funds under the UMTA formula program," DelliBovi said. "Since the program turns in part on data submitted by the transit agencies themselves, it is imperative that this information be reported accurately and in a timely manner."

Under the new regulations, statistical sampling to collect passenger mile data required by Section 15 of the UMTA Act must be collected every third year, rather than every year. The regulations apply to UMTA grantees in urbanized areas smaller than 500,000 population, those operating fewer than 50 buses and many agencies providing transit service through contracts with private carriers.

The regulations also specify that federal transit grantees which fail to submit the Section 15 financial and operating data accurately and on time may forfeit their eligibility for capital and operating grants from the formula program. In recent years, DelliBovi said, as many as half of UMTA grantees have submitted late, inaccurate or deficient data, delaying the apportionment of funds under the formula program.

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