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Contact: Joseph Marshall
Tel.: (202) 426-4043

UMTA TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AIDS TRANSIT OPERATORS

Two reports designed to assist transit operators in financial planning and budgeting, were released today by the Urban Mass Transportation Administration.

Administrator Arthur E. Teele, Jr., noted that dissemination of the information to transit operators begins what is expected to be a continuing effort to improve transit operating efficiency nationwide.

The first report, "Financial Forecasting Techniques in the Transit Industry", summarizes current practice in financial forecasting from a cross-section of transit operators. Exchange of the information should benefit transit systems, small and large, throughout the country.

Houston, for example, is developing a set of computer models for estimating the costs of change in service. Various productivity measures are used.

The second report, "Assessing the Benefits of Public Transit: Aids to Measurement and Analysis", provides information and references useful in identifying and quantifying the broad range of benefits which transit services can provide to an urban area.

Express bus service for commuters in the peak morning and evening periods, and off-peak service for transit dependent persons are examples of obvious benefits. Other benefits, often overlooked, may include reducing or eliminating the need for new streets, parking and other improvements to move increased automobile traffic in congested areas. From the urban development perspective, higher densities can create business and social opportunities not otherwise possible. And, in some areas school children use public transit to attend school obviating the need for an entire school bus system.

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