

National RTAP

*Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
National Rural Transit Assistance Program (RTAP)*

What's New:

April 10, 2004

FTA's National RTAP Program Seeks Nominations for "Achievements in Rural Transit Assistance" Awards Program

The Federal Transit Administration's National Rural Transit Assistance Program (RTAP) has established an "Achievements in Rural Transit Assistance" awards program to recognize RTAP State Programs, products and services that are benchmarks for the industry and are replicable by others.

The Award Categories are:

Outstanding Achievement for a RTAP State Management Program to recognize a state agency or a designated administering organization, for cost effective, original RTAP service that goes beyond the routine administration of programs and welds a partnership with local operators.

Outstanding Achievement for a State RTAP Product or Service to recognize a state agency or a designated administering agency for developing a product or service that makes a real difference in local agency performance and is cost effective and can be replicated by other state programs.

Up to two honorable mentions can be cited for each category.

You can download the [nomination form here](#). Nomination forms must be submitted by **September 1, 2004.**

Awards will be presented at a special ceremony at the
16th National Rural, Public & Intercity Bus Transportation Conference
October 24-27, 2004 in Roanoke, VA

National RTAP Seeks Nominations for National RTAP Review Board

The Rural Transit Assistance Program (RTAP) of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is looking for two individuals (one State RTAP Manager and one Rural Operator) to serve on the RTAP National Program Review Board. The term of office is for three years beginning in October 2004. FTA has asked the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) to solicit nominations for state transit officials and the Community Transportation Association of America to solicit nominations for rural transit operators. Additionally, other groups and individuals involved in rural transit are encouraged to nominate persons (including themselves) for the National Review Board and to send the nominations to the appropriate organization. You can download the [nomination form](#) here.

The submission deadline for nominations is August 18, 2004

If you have any trouble downloading the form, please contact [Matt Grizzard](#) by [e-mail](#) or 202-208-9541 ext. 3015 and it can be sent to you via e-mail, fax, or mail.

NEW!National RTAP Training Resource CatalogNEW!

The National RTAP Program is proud to unveil the National RTAP Training Resource Catalog. You can access the catalog by using the link on the left side of this page or go to:

<http://www.nationalrtap.org/ResourceCatalog/>

The catalog is an excellent resource when you're looking for the latest training available. The catalog provides you with the ability to search more than 650 training resources. You can search by resource name, type, subject, author, agency, or keyword. The output of your search will tell you about each resource (i.e. how to access the resources, how much it might cost etc). You also have the option to update the materials in the catalog. So be sure to search through the catalog and find your own resources that might be available and make sure all the information is correct.

In order to keep the catalog up to date and relevant we vitally need your help. You have the capability to add new resources to the catalog. We hope you will take the time to add any resources that you might have available. The intent of this catalog is to keep it as a living document – ever growing in size and relevance. So be sure to come back often as new resources will be added.

**Department of Transportation Releases FTA Fiscal Year 2004
Apportionments, Allocations and Program Information; Notice**

[Download the .pdf of the Federal Registry](#)

FTA Announces *United We Ride*

United We Ride -- a new five-part initiative-- to break down the barriers between programs and set the stage for local partnerships that generate common sense solutions and deliver A-plus performance for everyone who needs transportation.

The *United We Ride* initiative will include:

- *A Framework for Action*. Created by a panel of experts from around the country that convened in August 2003, this publication is a self-assessment tool that States and communities can use to identify areas of success and highlight the actions still needed to improve the coordination of human service transportation.
- *State Leadership Awards*. These awards will recognize a select number of States that have accomplished significant progress in human service transportation coordination. Award applications should be submitted no later than January 9, 2004.
- *National Leadership Forum on Human Service Transportation Coordination*. This conference, planned for late February 2004, will bring together Governor appointed senior leadership teams seeking to raise the visibility of the issue among State leaders and secure commitments to action. The forum will be used to provide technical assistance, as well as to recognize those States that have already taken significant steps to improve human service

transportation services.

- ***State Coordination Grants.*** States participating in the United We Ride National Leadership Forum will be eligible to submit an application for State Coordination Grants, to address gaps and needs related to human service transportation in their geographic regions.
- ***Help Along the Way.*** This technical assistance program will build on the work of the Community Transportation Assistance Program (CTAP), the Rural Transportation Assistance Program (RTAP), Easter Seals Project ACTION and other stakeholders to provide hands-on assistance to States and communities in the development and delivery of coordinated human service transportation programs.

2004 FHWA/FTA Transportation Planning Excellence Awards

FHWA & FTA seek entries for the FHWA/FTA Transportation Planning Excellence Awards. The awards are co-sponsored by the American Planning Association.

These awards will recognize outstanding initiatives across the country to develop, plan, and implement innovative transportation planning practices. Awards may be given in ten categories: Transportation and Land Use Integration, Transportation Planning Integration With Other Planning and Engineering Activities, Planning It Safe, Safety Conscious Planning, Homeland and Personal Security, Tribal Transportation Planning, Transportation Planning and Environment, Technology Applications, Planning Leadership, Public Involvement, Education, and Outreach, and Academic/Student Projects. The awards will be presented in the summer of 2004.

Information about the awards program and an online call for entries can be found at: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/tpea04>. The deadline for submitting entries is February 27, 2004. We encourage you to submit an entry.

New AARP Report Helps Agencies Understand Needs of Seniors

Are you planning a new service for seniors? or expanding an existing one? Doing either requires some insight into the needs and expectations of your passengers. A new report recently released by the AARP could help you gain the insight. *Understanding Senior Transportation* may help you better understand how older persons connect with their communities and the types of mobility problems they experience - particularly current or potential riders over age 75.

You can obtain a copy of the report on the AARP web site at: http://www.research.aarp.org/il/inb50_transport.pdf