National RTAP

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

What's New:

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December 15, 2003

NEW! National RTAP Training Resource Catalog NEW!

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.

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5310 - Elderly and Disabled Assistance Program Comments Accepted

The Federal Transit Administration is asking states and local governments, as well as businesses, non-profit and other organizations for comments on the Capital Assistance Program for Elderly Persons and Persons with Disabilities program that funds transportation services for these group. The comment period has been extended to January 9, 2004

For complete information download docket No. FTA-2003-16467 and submit your comments to Docket Management Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington DC 20590 or submit your comments electronically at: http://dms.dot.gov/search/searchResultsSimple.cfm?numberValue=16467&searchType=docket

The program is administered by states and may be used for urbanized, small urban and rural areas under the Nonurbanized Area Formula Program to provide public transportation assistance. The FTA reviews applications for eligibility and compliance. Reporting requirements by the state and agencies allows the FTA to monitor projects and develop annual reports.

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Department of Transportation Issues Revised Final Rule on Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program

This final rule revises the Department of Transportation's regulations for its Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program. It makes several changes to the DBE program, concerning such subjects as uniform application and reporting forms; implementing a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Small Business Administration (SBA); substantive amendments to provisions concerning personal net worth, retainage, size standard, proof of ethnicity, confidentiality, proof of economic disadvantage, DBE credit for trucking firms, and eligibility of firms owned by Alaska Native Corporations (ANCs); and clarifications concerning multi-year project goals and the use of the new North American Industrial Classification System (``NAICS'').

For more information about this new rule you can download the final rule as published in the Federal Register; go to the DOT's Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) web site and contact your FTA Regional Administrator.

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ADMINISTRATION PROPOSAL SUBMITTED:

SAFETEA is out of the bag. And it has good news for rural transit.

Continuing the promise in the President's FY 2004 transit budget to increase rural transit spending, the Administrations newly released ISTEA reauthorization bill, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act of 2003 (SAFETEA), would increase the nation's investment in rural transit by around 20 percent.

Released May 14, 2003, SAFETEA formally begins the dialog, bargaining, praising, complaining and negotiating over the terms of continuing ISTEA which expires the end of September 2003.

Rural (Other than Urbanized - 5311) funding authorizations in SAFETEA would increase from $359 M in 2004 to $402M in 2009. Two percent of that would be distributed by formula to the Rural Transit Assistance Program (RTAP) of which not more than 15 percent may be available for the National RTAP program.

FTA Administrator Jenna Dorn explained that five principles provide the framework for the transit aspects of the bill:

- Adequacy of resources,
- Predictable funding
- Local flexibility
- Federal government as partner to get results
- Serve the vulnerable populations.

For details of the Rural 5311 authorizations and programs download the Key Information.

Some key language in the Public Transportation Formula Grants for Special Needs of Elderly Individuals and Individuals with Disabilities released by the Department of Transportation when the President's proposal for reauthorization of TEA-21 (SAFETEA) was unveiled is that eligibility requires that "projects be selected from a locally developed coordinated public transit-human services transportation plan."

Funding authorizations would start at $87M in 2003 and top at $97M in 2009. (Authorizations are recommended levels, not the actual appropriations which take place each year). For more details download the fact sheet.

A copy of the legislation with tables and section by section analysis can be down loaded by going to the DOT web site at: http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/reauthorization

For comments on the proposed legislation from the American Public Transit Association (APTA) and the Community Transportation Association of American (CTAA) go to http://www.apta.com/media/releases/safetea.cfm and http://www.ctaa.org/fednews/safetea.asp

Several reauthorization bills are poised for release in the House and Senate. (Hearings have been going on over the past year.) The National RTAP web page will add links to important SAFETEA information as the dialog continues on this biggest piece of infrastructure legislation in history.

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Colorado DOT Transit Visibility Program

In order to raise the profile of public transit in Colorado, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) in 1997 established the Transit Visibility Project (TVP). Through this initiative CDOT provides funding and technical assistance to Colorado transit properties to help bolster their marketing efforts. The aim of TVP is to move participating transit agencies' promotional programs to the next level, enabling them to have a greater impact on the communities they serve.

For more information about the program download the TVP Summary.pdf

If you have any trouble downloading the information contact Matt Grizzard by e-mail or 202-408-9541 ext 3015 and the form can be sent to you by e-mail, fax or mail.

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FTA Releases FY 2003 Apportionments, Allocations and Program Information

The Omnibus Appropriations Bill "Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003", (Pub. L. 108-7) was signed into law by President Bush on February 20, 2003, which includes the Department of Transportation and Related Agencies Appropriations for fiscal year 2003 (FY 2003 DOT Appropriations Act), and provides FY 2003 appropriations for the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) transit assistance programs.

You can see the 5311 apportionments well as RTAP apportionments for each state on the FTA web site at:

http://www.fta.dot.gov/library/legal/federalregister/2003/tables/table5.html

Or you can see the entire FTA Fiscal Year 2003 Apportionments, Allocations and Program Information Notice on the FTA web site at:

http://www.fta.dot.gov/library/legal/federalregister/2003/fr31203.html

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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