

National RTAP

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

What's New:

February 12, 2006

Easter Seals Project ACTION announces next audio conference

Easter Seals Project ACTION will host another in its series of free distance learning events on accessible transportation issues at 2 p.m. EST March 28. Listeners dialing into the program will hear a discussion of creative strategies successfully used to increase accessible public transportation in small cities and rural areas. Sharing their experiences will be Terry Parker, accessible services manager of Lane Transit District in Eugene, Ore., and Ron Baumgart, executive director of River Cities Public Transit in Pierre, S.D. The program will last one hour, and materials related to the presentation will be posted on the ESPA Web site one week prior to the conference. In addition, interested listeners will be invited to submit questions one week prior to the call. For more information,

visit: http://projectaction.easterseals.com/site/PageServer?pagename=ESPA_audio_conference_Mar_2006

New TCRP Publications

The Transit Cooperative Research Program (TCRP) has published several new reports in the past few months. Below is a list of reports of interest to rural agencies and operators with links to the full articles.

[Electronic Business Strategies for Public Transportation: Strategies to Expand & Improve Deployment of ITS in Rural Transit Systems](#)

[Public Transportation Emergency Mobilization & emergency Operations Guide](#)

Toolkit for Rural Community coordinated Transportation Services

Public Transportation Board Effectiveness: A Self-Assessment Handbook

Strategies to Increase Coordination of Transportation Services for the Transportation Disadvantaged

NCHRP Report on "Availability & Accessibility of Liability & Excess Insurance for Public Transit & Private Coach Operators"

The National Cooperative Highway Research Program recently completed a report entitled, "Availability & Accessibility of Liability & Excess Insurance for Public Transit & Private Coach Operators". This report was finished as part of the work plan for the AASHTO Standing Committee on Public Transportation. It assessed liability insurance issues and identified and detailed alternatives to commercial insurance. [Read the report online](#) (PDF).

FTA Releases Guidance on Private Sector Participation

The new FTA brochure, "Private Sector Participation" is intended to be a user-friendly guide to private sector involvement for use by planning agencies, transit agencies, and private transportation providers. The brochure explains in plain English how and why private sector providers can be involved in delivering public transportation services. It also discusses the requirements for private sector involvement in Federally-funded transportation programs, from the early transportation planning stages to service delivery.

[Read the brochure](#). The brochure is also available on the [FTA website](#).

FTA Releases Guidance on Head Start Regulation

As part of United We Ride, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is working closely with federal partners to identify opportunities to improve coordination of services. On January 18, 2001, the Head Start Bureau, a federal

agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, issued detailed regulations concerning the transportation of children within its programs (45 CFR Part 1310). Full implementation is targeted by **January 18, 2006**.

This regulation, under 45 CFR part 1310.10, states that each agency must assist as many families as possible who need transportation in order for their children to attend the program in obtaining that transportation. Agencies have the option of providing transportation services either directly or by contract, or providing reasonable assistance to Head Start families to arrange transportation to and from its activities.

FTA has drafted an [overview](#) to provide clarification regarding use of FTA funds to purchase vehicles that may be used to transport Head Start participants as well as other riders in a coordinated system.

For more information on the regulation, visit the [FTA Website](#). View the [Overview](#).

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.

FTA Emphasizes *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 includes:

- *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 initial awards have recognized a select number of States that have accomplished significant progress in human service transportation coordination.
- *National Leadership Forum on Human Service Transportation Coordination*. This conference, held in late February 2004, brought together Governor appointed senior leadership teams seeking to raise the visibility of the issue among State leaders and secure commitments to action. The forum was 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 ongoing 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.