Office of the Secretary
Office of State and Local Government Coordination & Preparedness
Washington, DC 20531

Homeland Security

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TO: All State Administrative Agency Heads
All State Administrative Agency Points of Contact
Eligible Transit Agency CEOs

FROM: Matt A. Mayer
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SUBJECT: Increasing Improvised Explosive Detection capabilities for U.S. Mass Transit Systems

As a result of the July 7, 2005 terror attacks on transportation assets in London, England, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has elevated the Homeland Security Advisory Alert System Level from Yellow to Orange for mass transit systems. In light of the heightened concerns about possible attacks on transit assets here in the United States, the Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness (SLGCP) **encourages all affected states to work with their urban area and transit system partners to complete the development of the required Regional Transit Security Strategies (RTSS) as soon as possible**. SLGCP is working with the Office of Justice Programs (OJP), Office of the Comptroller (OC) to expedite the award of FY 2005 Transit Security Grants. As the expenditure of these funds is tied to the submission and approval of the RTSS, the states should not wait until the August 31st deadline to submit these plans.

Also, in light of the July 7th attacks, transit systems that have received funds through the Fiscal Year 2003 Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) Mass Transit System Security Grant Program and the Fiscal Year 2004 UASI Grant Program should immediately review their existing improvised explosive device (IED) prevention and detection capabilities to determine if it is necessary to adjust their spending plans to address this threat. As part of this review, specific attention should be paid to the acquisition of canines and other technologies relevant to the prevention of attacks involving IEDs. SLGCP will expedite the approval of revised budgets to permit the rapid acquisition of these capabilities.

Lastly, grant recipients are urged to review their spending activities and contact their SLGCP Preparedness Officer for assistance in overcoming any barriers to the obligation, expenditure and draw down of these funds. For more information on the authorized use of grant funds for IED prevention and detection, or to request assistance with problems encountered in the expenditure of grant funds, please contact your SLGCP Preparedness Officer, or the SLGCP Helpline at (800) 368-6498 or askcsid@dhs.gov.

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