



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# NEWS

## URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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The Washington, D.C. metropolitan area will be the site of a Federally-supported transportation experiment using two-way express bus service to make suburban jobs more accessible to urban workers.

The Federally-supported \$745,338 test will be conducted by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. A secondary purpose of the project is to determine the feasibility of using a regional body to manage projects.

The Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration will pay 90 percent of the total project cost, \$670,804. The balance will be financed by the District of Columbia, Prince George's and Montgomery Counties, Maryland, and Fairfax County, Virginia.

Paul L. Sitton, Urban Mass Transportation Administrator, in announcing the grant, said: "Bus transit service has been traditionally oriented toward the suburban resident who works in central city areas. Today a great many job opportunities are available in suburban areas, but in many cases, potential employees, particularly those who live in center city poverty areas, are unable to seek such employment because they have no fast, direct transportation to the suburbs."

The Washington experiment will test the use of an express bus loop in which buses, instead of returning empty to their starting points, would be routed through areas of the city to pick up workers for suburban jobs. The procedure would be reversed during the evening rush period.

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The first express route will operate from the Prince George's Plaza shopping center in Hyattsville, Maryland, to downtown Washington and return via employment offices operated by the United Planning Organization in the Anacostia and Cardozo sections of the city.

The return route will serve job sites in Prince George's County along Kenilworth Avenue and Baltimore Boulevard, the University of Maryland campus and the shopping center. Shuttle bus service will be developed to connect the Plaza stop with other employment centers.

The new loop service will provide eight round trips between the Plaza and downtown during both morning and evening rush periods. D. C. Transit Company buses will be used.

Additional loops may be added later in Montgomery County and northern Virginia if warranted.

For further information:

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