



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe today approved funds to continue the "employment express" to move once-jobless workers from the Boston ghettos to industrialized areas.

Under the terms of the \$45,554 Department of Transportation grant, the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) will provide bus service from Boston's Roxbury district to many of the nearly 800 large industrial and business sites along Route 128.

MBTA began an experimental service between the two areas last June.

The Department of Transportation grant will enable the Authority to continue the runs while local organizations mount a drive to find jobs for many of Roxbury's 62,500 residents. About 13,000 of Roxbury's families earn less than \$3,000 a year.

Roxbury is plagued by chronic high joblessness while the industries in the Greater Boston Area are constantly searching for workers.

At a time last year when the unemployment rate of Roxbury was more than nine percent -- as compared to less than six percent for the entire city -- about 550 of the industries along Route 128 were searching for nearly 4,000 workers.

"The beauty of the Boston plan," Secretary Volpe said, "is that the MBTA will now tie its plans to serve the two areas with a manpower recruitment program.

"It has long been apparent to me that just finding jobs or just providing transportation services for the unemployed was not enough. We must do both at the same time to be successful in improving the life of the inner city residents."

Locating the jobs for Roxbury's unemployed will be under the guidance of the Urban League, neighborhood employment centers, Opportunities Industrialization Center and Jobs Clearing House.

Details of DOT participation in the experiment were worked out between officials of Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration headed by Carlos C. Villarreal and Boston representatives of the MBTA and Urban League.

The MBTA proposes to operate five buses in the morning to get the Roxbury residents to work and four during the afternoon to take them home again.

The \$45,554 grant approved by Secretary Volpe will finance DOT's participation in the experiment for six months.

At the end of that period, Department of Transportation officials will take another look at the project to determine if continued DOT support is justified.

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