



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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Greater accessibility to job opportunities will be afforded residents of low income areas in Omaha, Nebraska and Gary, Indiana as the result of two Federal grants announced today by Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe.

Secretary Volpe announced grants of \$105,778 to Omaha and \$78,058 to Gary.

Both grants will support demonstration projects providing bus service to employment centers to which public transit is now either nonexistent, in the case of Omaha, or inadequate, in Gary.

"In addition to meeting the test of improving urban mass transit service, these projects fill the social and economic need of bringing people and jobs together," Secretary Volpe said.

"It seems reasonable to observe in the case of each project that its cost can be offset or significantly reduced by a decrease in welfare payments."

OMAHA

An area of Omaha experiencing heavy unemployment is the "Near North Side" which has a population of 42,000. Much of the area has been classified by the recently completed Community Renewal Program as badly in need of redevelopment.

Industrial expansion in Omaha has been concentrated in its southwest section and there are now approximately 10,000 job opportunities in that area.

There is now no public transit linking the north side with the southwest section of Omaha.

The Omaha Transit Company will provide 19 peak hour bus trips per day from the north side to the southwest industrial area. The return trips will provide express bus service to and from downtown Omaha for suburban residents.

GARY

Gary will provide bus transportation for presently unemployed and under-employed residents of its Model Cities area to two steel plants at Burns Harbor on Lake Michigan.

The steel plants are served by trains of the South Shore Electric Line, but the schedule and station location do not meet the needs of residents of the Model Cities neighborhood.

Gary Intercity Lines will provide bus service from the Model Cities area to Burns Harbor meeting the 3-shift, 7-days-a-week schedule at each plant.

Both plants are being expanded, as are their respective construction and operating forces.

A total of approximately 1,500 job opportunities exist at the two locations.

The Omaha project is identified as NEB-MTD-1 and the Gary project as IND-MTD-2.

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