



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe today announced a grant of \$759,100 to the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA) to assist in the purchase of 45 new transit buses to improve public transportation in the Providence metropolitan area.

The Federal grant amounts to one-half of the transit improvement program cost of \$1,012,133. RIPTA will become eligible for an additional grant of \$253,033 when the planning requirements of the Urban Mass Transportation Act are met.

"The Providence public transportation improvement program has two primary short range objectives," Secretary Volpe said.

"They are the extension of existing routes and the creation of new routes into rapidly growing suburban areas to provide peak period commuting service and the provision of a higher level of service and greater mobility for inner city residents."

Among the additional benefits of the program will be a "reverse-commute" plan for utilizing deadhead mileage on express buses to open up suburban job opportunities to city residents and Sunday excursion trips for economically disadvantaged people.

The 45 new buses are scheduled to be delivered over a period of 30 months. Thirty of the buses will have a capacity of 45 passengers and 15 will have a 53-passenger capacity.

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The grant was made by the Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration, headed by Carlos C. Villarreal.

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