



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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Public ownership for the privately-owned Twin City Lines, Inc., was made possible today by a \$9,723,800 Federal grant awarded to the Twin Cities Area Metropolitan Transit Commission by the Department of Transportation.

In announcing the grant, Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe said that "the influx of Federal funds will enable the commission to acquire and improve the system by the purchase of new modern equipment and maintain the fare structure at a level that will increase the ridership."

The grant, made by the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration, will enable the St. Paul-Minneapolis commission to purchase 93 new 53-passenger, air-conditioned diesel buses, install 31 heated bus passenger shelters revise all present routes and to construct an improved information control center.

The Federal grant represents two-thirds of the total project cost of \$14,585,700.

About 150,000 passengers use the system daily. It is estimated that the planned improvements will increase the ridership 10 percent.

The action for public ownership of the system was made after it was determined that the private operator could not make the needed improvements and maintain the present fare structure in the face of rising costs.

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