



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20591

FOR RELEASE FRIDAY
September 11, 1970

DOT -- 18870
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Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe today announced a \$1,640,000 Federal grant to the Bi-State Development Agency, of St. Louis, Mo. to help purchase 69 new diesel transit buses.

"These buses will be used primarily to improve the quality of service in the Illinois area of the Agency's transit operations," Secretary Volpe said.

"This area contains many concentrations of low-income residents dispersed among large industrial complexes. The new buses will open up job opportunities for these people in the area and in St. Louis."

The agency will buy seventeen 51-passenger, forty 45-passenger and twelve 33-passenger buses, each equipped with a two-way radio.

The Federal grant, made by the Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration, represents two-thirds of the \$2,460,000 cost of the buses.

"Bus service will be improved substantially between the lower income residential areas and the industrial complexes. Individuals in these areas and the community alike will benefit," Carlos C. Villarreal, the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administrator, said.

A previous UMTA grant provided financial assistance to purchase 52 buses which were placed in service in May of last year.

The Bi-State transit system operates approximately 925 buses. The average age of the regular transit fleet is 12.5 years.

For further information:

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