



**DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION**

**URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION  
ADMINISTRATION**

**WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590**

*Kruser*

**NEWS**

FOR RELEASE FRIDAY A.M.  
April 9, 1971

DOT -- 5771  
Phone: (202) 426-4043

Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe today announced a \$4.4 million grant to the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority (SEMTA) to help buy 160 new air-conditioned buses for the Detroit area.

The \$4,442,000 grant, made by the Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration, will pay for two-thirds of the cost of purchasing the 160 new 50-passenger diesel buses. The City of Detroit will get 117 of the new vehicles (worth \$5.1 million) for use by the Department of Street Railways (DSR). The remaining 43 coaches will be leased to three privately-owned transit companies serving the Detroit suburbs.

The remaining one-third cost of \$2,221,000 will be shared by the City of Detroit, the State of Michigan and the three private transit companies, bringing the total project cost to \$6,663,000.

In making the grant announcement, Secretary Volpe said:

"The purchase of these modern, well-equipped buses certainly will enhance Detroit's mass transit service. We hope that the new coaches will allow many driving commuters to put their cars to better use rather than just going to and from work."

The bus purchase project is the result of two earlier UMTA grants totaling \$241,000 which were given to SEMTA in May 1968 and June 1969 for technical studies of transit needs in all six counties covered by SEMTA.

---

**NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION WEEK / MAY 16-22**  
*Transportation: Filling the Needs of a Growing America...*

Created by the Michigan Legislature in 1967, SEMTA coordinates all public transit systems for 4.6 million residents who live in about 4,000 square miles of Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, Washtenaw and Wayne Counties. The Authority is empowered to plan, acquire, construct, operate and contract for all public transit operations within the six-county area.

The Detroit Street Railway system handles the vast majority of SEMTA's bus ridership, operating approximately 1,200 buses over 40 million miles during the past year. Only 30 of the current DSR buses are air-conditioned and about one-fourth of the fleet has two-way radio control. All 160 new buses will be air-conditioned and radio-equipped.

Administrator Carlos C. Villarreal of UMTA said that "the new buses also will enable SEMTA to start experimental routes and special runs to better serve Detroit's changing transit needs." The Administrator added:

"The Motor City has a great system of freeways and expressways, but not all Detroit area residents own cars or choose to drive. Those are the people we are trying to help ... along with the old, the young, the handicapped and the man who either can't afford or doesn't need a car."

Mr. Villarreal inspected Detroit's transit needs only last month after meeting with Mayor Roman S. Gribbs. Both men pledged mutual "deep interest in helping the Motor City also become a top-notch mass transit town."

— O —

For further information, contact Walter Gold at the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043, or:

Mr. David F. Breck  
Chairman, Southeastern Michigan  
Transportation Authority  
1705 Industrial Building  
232 West Grand River  
Detroit, Michigan 48226