



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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The U. S. Department of Transportation today made a \$156,000 grant to the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority to pave the way for SEMTA to expand from a planning agency into actual transit operations.

The grant, made by the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), will pay for two-thirds of SEMTA's purchase of Lake Shore Coach Lines, Inc. The private transit company, located in suburban Detroit, has announced its intention to discontinue transit service on September 1st.

In addition to preserving transit service in the northeast suburbs of Detroit, SEMTA will use the Federal funds to improve service on all three of Lake Shore's former bus routes, add 10 used buses to the small existing fleet and modernize the private company's office and equipment maintenance facilities. The entire project will cost about \$234,000, of which UMTA will fund two-thirds and SEMTA will pay \$78,000 to cover the remaining one-third costs.

The Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority was chartered by the State of Michigan in 1967 with a mandate to consolidate and improve public transportation in the Detroit area. Although SEMTA has functioned as a transportation planning agency for four years, the agency has never taken over any actual transit operation until now.

"This move was precipitated by the failure of the Lake Shore transit system," commented Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe. "We look to SEMTA to institute aggressive management and maintenance policies and to make public transportation appealing and responsive to Detroit commuters."

Administrator Carlos C. Villarreal of UMTA, who recently toured the Detroit Street Railway system and SEMTA operations, praised the acquisition as being "in the best interests of the transit-riding public." SEMTA plans to make its next acquisition in 1973 and eventually assume responsibility for operating all mass transit systems in Southeastern Michigan.

The Lake Shore Bus system has been operating in the Grosse Point Shores-St. Clair Shores area since 1932. Other municipalities where SEMTA plans to continue and improve transit service include Grosse Point Woods, Farms, Park and Grosse Point City. Bus service will continue to extend to and from Detroit as far north as the Mount Clements area.

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For further information, contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043, or SEMTA, 232 West Grand River, Detroit, Michigan 48226. (Project No. MICH-UTG-18)

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