



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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The U. S. Department of Transportation today made two technical study grants totaling \$1.1 million to the City of Chicago to assist in preparing short and long range mass transportation plans for the Chicago area.

The \$1,157,600 grants, made by the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), will be augmented with \$578,800 in cash and services from the City of Chicago, bringing the total cost of the two study projects to \$1,736,400.

The first grant of \$900,000 will go to Chicago for use by the newly-organized Regional Transportation Planning Board (RTPB), which serves northeastern Illinois and northwestern Indiana. The RTPB study will focus on the present and future mass transit needs in the six Illinois counties and two Indiana counties which make up the eight-county Chicago urban region.

The second grant of \$257,600 will pay for two-thirds of the cost of a separate study which will determine the mass transportation components required for the proposed Chicago Crosstown Expressway. The 20-mile expressway is planned as a multi-use transportation corridor, including highway, bus and possible rapid rail usage, according to Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe.

"The need is great to maximize people-moving capabilities in the expressway corridor," Secretary Volpe said. "Today's grant will make it possible to do the detailed planning necessary to obtain the most effective use of this valuable corridor."

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Special consideration will be given during the study to the provision of a high-speed mass transportation link between O'Hare International and Midway Airports via the crosstown corridor. At the same time, the study will provide for normal non-airport commuter trips.

Administrator Carlos C. Villarreal of UMTA said that proposed mass transit lines on the expressway "are expected to carry up to 60,000 persons on an average weekday, as compared with another 220,000 who would use their automobiles." Only about 100,000 people live in the immediate crosstown corridor area but the 20-mile section is highly industrial, attracting thousands of additional commuters each day.

The first grant to the Regional Transportation Planning Board will be augmented with \$450,000 in local funds, bringing the total project cost to \$1.35 million. The Expressway study grant also will receive one-third local funding from Chicago of \$128,800, bringing that project cost to \$386,400.

The first grant will be coordinated by the RTPB and its member agencies to assure close adherence and balance for all land use and transportation plans in the Chicago region.

Four of the region's planning agencies make up the RTPB membership. They are the Chicago Area Transportation Study, the City of Chicago Department of Development and Planning, the Lake-Porter County Regional Transportation and Planning Commission, and the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission. Represented on the Board in an ex-officio capacity is the Office of the Governor of Illinois and the Interstate Planning Committee.

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For further information, contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043.

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