



**DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION**

**URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION
ADMINISTRATION**

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20590

FAWA-HO-1
NEWS

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The U. S. Department of Transportation today announced 16 new grants for the nationwide improvement of urban mass transportation, bringing the total of such grants approved during the past month to nearly \$23 million.

The 16 new grants, totaling \$2, 531, 258, were made to city, regional and transportation agencies in 14 different States. Three other recent grants, totaling \$20.4 million, were announced earlier in two separate releases (DOT 20971 and DOT R-49). These grants provided nearly \$20 million to help purchase 214 new high-speed rail cars for Philadelphia and northern New Jersey commuters, and \$616, 411 to Lansing, Michigan, for improvement of public bus transportation in that city.

All 19 grants were made by the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA). Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe said they are part of the Department's \$3.1 billion program to upgrade, improve and develop new bus, rapid transit and commuter rail systems across the Nation.

Administrator Carlos C. Villarreal of UMTA said that five of the new grants totaling \$1.5 million were for capital improvements, such as new buses and related transit equipment. Eight others for \$779, 876 were for technical studies which lead to capital grants. The remaining three totaled \$204, 900 for demonstration projects which are expected to bring about new or better methods of providing urban transportation, Administrator Villarreal said.

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The 16 grantees are located in Tucson, Arizona; Columbus, Georgia; Amarillo and Texarkana, Texas; Salt Lake City, Utah; Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Seattle, Washington; Buffalo, New York; St. Paul, Minnesota; Portland, Oregon; Sacramento and San Jose, California; Tallahassee, Florida; Topeka, Kansas; Denver, Colorado and Alexandria, Virginia.

The five capital grants went to:

* The City of Tucson, Arizona -- \$1,070,567 to cover half the costs of the city buying 29 new air-conditioned 45-passenger buses, five new shuttle buses, modernization of some existing buses, construction of new maintenance, storage and administration facilities and for the construction and improvement of 300 bus stops. An additional UMTA grant of \$356,856 will be available to Tucson after the city completes its regional transportation planning requirements. This will bring the Federal share of helping Tucson improve its transit system to \$1,427,423, or two-thirds of the total \$2,141,135 project cost. Local contributions from Tucson will cover the remaining one-third costs. Tucson is the first city in Arizona to receive a capital grant from UMTA. (Project No. ARIZ-UTG-1)

* Columbus, Georgia -- \$211,666 -- to purchase two new buses and related transit equipment. (GA-UTG-3)

* Amarillo, Texas -- \$173,109 -- to buy eight new buses and eight new bus fare boxes. (TEX-UTG-6)

* Utah Transit Authority, Salt Lake City, Utah -- \$80,086 -- to purchase the assets of Salt Lake City (Bus) Lines, purchase additional land and six new buses and to construct maintenance, garage and office facilities. (UTAH-UTG-1)

* Regional Transit Authority, Cedar Rapids, Iowa -- \$11,055 -- to buy 23 new bus fare boxes. (IOWA-UTG-2)

The eight technical study grants were to:

* The Puget Sound Governmental Conference, Seattle, Washington -- \$447,000 -- to help update a current mass transit plan for the Puget Sound region and to prepare a county-wide transit operating plan for King County. A detailed sub-area plan for the City of Bellevue also will be done under this grant. (WASH-T9-5)

* The Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority, Buffalo, New York -- \$99,984 -- to help provide for analysis of 19 rapid transit station sites along a proposed 12.5 mile rail rapid transit facility in the Buffalo-Amherst Corridor. (NY-T9-12)

(more)

* The City of St. Paul, Minnesota -- \$72,000 -- to develop a recommended system for the circulation and distribution of people in downtown St. Paul and establish the need for a Personal Rapid Transit system ("people mover") and for a transportation center in the downtown area as part of current transit planning for the Twin Cities area. (MINN-T9-7)

* The Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District, Portland, Oregon -- \$66,000 -- to help finance a two-part study which will provide the preliminary engineering design plans and cost estimates for major bus repair and maintenance facilities and to develop a comprehensive financial and statistical reporting system for management. (ORE-T9-4)

* The Sacramento Regional Area Planning Commission, Sacramento, California -- \$33,333 -- to aid in the development of both a short-range and a long-range transit plan and implementation program for six counties and 17 cities in the Sacramento area with a combined population of nearly one million persons. (CAL-T9-19)

* The Tallahassee-Leon County Planning Department, Tallahassee, Florida -- \$26,666 -- also for a short and long-range transit improvement plan, with recommendations on ownership and management alternatives, capital needs, financing and priorities for an implementation program. (FLA-T9-6)

* The City of Texarkana, Texas -- \$19,893 -- to provide a bus improvement study for the Cities of Texarkana, Texas and Arkansas, with emphasis on the transit needs of Model Cities residents. (TEX-T9-15)

* The City of Topeka, Kansas -- \$15,000 -- to enable the city to determine its present and potential transit needs for the metropolitan area and to develop a transit improvement program. (KANSAS-T9-1)

Demonstration projects funded by UMTA during the past month included grants to:

* The Regional Transportation District of Denver, Colorado -- \$100,000 -- to prepare for the possible demonstration of a Personal Rapid Transit ("people mover") system to be selected by UMTA and Denver from among four to be tested this spring and summer at the TRANSPO 72 exposition near Washington, D. C. (COL-DMG-1)

* The San Jose-Palo Alto Transit Authority, San Jose, California -- \$75,000 -- to plan a demonstration program for the comprehensive improvement of the area's bus system making it suitable for low-density, auto-oriented cities. (CAL-DMG-14)

* The American Horticultural Society, Alexandria, Virginia -- \$29,900 -- to produce a manual for the horticultural development of public transportation facilities, with a goal of more effectively using plant materials to improve the public transit environment. (VA-RDG-2)

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For further information, contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043, or the individual grantee. When calling or writing for information, please refer to the project number and to this press release number. Addresses and telephone numbers of grantees will be supplied on request.

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