



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# NEWS

## URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

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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 all such grants approved during the past two months to more than \$137 million.

The 16 new grants, totaling \$85,433,647, were made to city, regional and transportation agencies in ten different States and the District of Columbia. Five other major grants, totaling \$51.8 million, were announced during November and December in separate press releases.

All 21 grants were made by the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA). Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe said that the grants 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.

The 16 new grantees are located in Chicago, Ill.; San Francisco, Calif.; Philadelphia and Lehigh Valley, Pa.; Salem, Oreg.; Madison, Wis.; Gary and Highland, Ind.; Dover, Del.; Columbus and Cleveland, Ohio; Beaumont, Tex.; Boston, Mass.; and Washington, D.C.

The five previously announced grants included \$22,632,250 to the Metropolitan Atlanta (Georgia) Rapid Transit Authority to help MARTA buy 490 new transit buses and take over the faltering Atlanta Transit System, (DOT Release No. 22071); \$19,718,000 to the Public Utilities Commission of San Francisco to modernize that city's streetcar system, (DOT-21971); \$5,933,333 to the Central New York Regional Transportation Authority to buy out the failing Syracuse Transit Corporation and to purchase 97 new buses for Syracuse, (DOT-23371); \$2,243,568 to the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission to buy 30 additional buses and parking facilities for the Shirley Highway-Washington, D.C. exclusive bus lane project, (DOT-22671); and \$1.2 million to Knoxville, Tennessee to help that city buy 40 new buses, 42 two-way radios and modernize its bus maintenance facilities, (DOT-23971).

Today's 16 new grants include seven totaling \$83,184,972 for capital improvements, such as new buses and related transit equipment, according to UMTA Administrator Carlos C. Villarreal.

Four others totaling \$347,261 were for technical studies which lead to capital grants, Administrator Villarreal said. Three other grants for \$1,823,747 went toward demonstration projects which are expected to bring about new and better methods of providing urban transportation. And the final two grants were for university and training programs sponsored by UMTA to help improve the managerial and research quality of the transit industry, Administrator Villarreal said.

The seven capital grants went to:

\* Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) --\$53,119,700-- the second largest single grant ever made by UMTA and the largest grant for new buses. This grant, (announced today in separate press release DOT-24171) will help CTA buy 500 buses, 100 rapid transit cars and make other related transit improvements. (Project No. ILL-UTG-24)

\* Lake-Porter County (Ind.) Regional Transportation and Planning Commission --\$6,890,355-- (also announced in DOT-24171) to purchase 21 new air-conditioned electric commuter rail cars and make improvements to the electric power conversion system on the Chicago South Shore and South Bend Railroad, which provides commuter service between Chicago and its Indiana suburbs. (IND-UTG-5)

\* The Bay Area Rapid Transit District, San Francisco, California --\$20 million to complete construction of BART's Embarcadero Station, which currently exists only as a 700-foot long concrete shell. Funds from this grant will be used to complete interior work on the station, including the construction of entrances and platforms and the installation of electrical and mechanical equipment. (CAL-UTG-19)

\* The Department of City Property, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania --\$2,590,000 to modernize the city's 15th Street subway station, a key point on the Market-Frankford rapid transit line, which was constructed in 1907. This modernization project will provide more adequate platform areas, better lighting and faster passenger access. (PA-UTG-2)

\* Lane County Mass Transit District, Salem, Oregon --\$427,350-- to purchase the assets of the Emerald Transit System, buy 22 new buses and purchase other related transit equipment. (ORE-UTG-5)

\* Madison, Wisconsin -- \$111,734 -- additional funds to buy out the Madison Bus Company, purchase 36 new buses and buy 72 two-way bus radios. (WISC-UTG-2)

\* Gary, Indiana -- \$45,833 -- to buy 50 new lock-type bus fare boxes and to convert 63 others to the new lock-type, anti-theft system. (IND-UTG-10)

The four technical study grants were to the:

\* Delaware Department of Highways and Transportation and the Delaware Authority for Regional Transit -- \$163,905 -- to develop both a short-range (five year) and a long-range (20 year) transit improvement program for a total transportation plan for the Wilmington area. (DEL-T9-2)

\* Central Ohio Transit Authority -- \$76,442 -- to provide a five year policy and operations plan for mass transit in the Columbus Metropolitan Area. (OHIO-T9-11)

\* South East Texas Regional Planning Commission -- \$55,326 -- to develop a program for implementing a unified mass transit system for the Beaumont, Port Arthur and Orange area, with a special emphasis on providing a short-range transit improvement plan. (TEX-T9-14)

\* Joint Planning Commission, Lehigh-Northampton Counties (Pennsylvania) -- \$51,588 -- to make a six-month study to provide an immediate and a 5-10 year transit improvement program for the Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton areas. (PA-T9-9)

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

\* Institute for Rapid Transit (Washington, D. C. ) -- \$1,070,637 -- for the second phase of a three-year study to improve the environment of subway riders. IRT is making the study and will produce a handbook for subway planners, designers and operators on how to reduce construction and operation costs as related to subway ventilation. (DC-MTD-7)

\* Cleveland (Ohio) Transit System -- \$644,026 -- to purchase, test, operate and provide data on the first turbine powered bus ever to be used in normal transit service. (OHIO-DMG-9)

\* Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority -- \$109,084 -- to develop standardized specifications for future American light rail transit cars. (MASS-RDG-5)

The two university and training grants went for:

\* Thirteen fellowships --totaling \$42,667 -- to 13 transit industry employees from across the Nation to attend the two-week Fifth Urban Mass Transportation Management Seminar at Northeastern University in Boston last month.

\* The Academy for Educational Development (Washington, D.C.) -- \$35,000 -- to create a high-level, broadly-based professional advisory council which will give assistance to UMTA in managing its University Research and Training grant program. (DC-RDG-10)

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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.

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