



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe today announced eight new grants totaling \$3.3 million for the improvement of urban mass transportation in seven States.

The grants, which totaled \$3,341,041, were made by the Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA). All eight grants represent the Federal share of transportation planning and transit technical studies in eight different cities, Secretary Volpe said.

"These grants are part of President Nixon's multi-billion dollar, five-year program to improve public transit service in communities across the Nation," the Secretary said. "Commuters by the thousands in each of these eight cities will soon benefit from these grants."

The eight grantees are located in Berkeley and Los Angeles, California; Grand Island, New York; Camden, New Jersey; Arlington, Texas; Waukesha, Wisconsin; St. Petersburg, Florida, and Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

UMTA Administrator Carlos C. Villarreal said the grants were "for technical study and planning projects, which usually lead to capital grant projects, such as the purchase of new buses and commuter rail cars."

Secretary Volpe said some of the grants will be augmented with additional Government funding from the Department of Transportation's Federal Highway (FHWA) and Federal Aviation (FAA) Administrations, and funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The eight grants went to the:

* Metropolitan Transportation Commission, Berkeley, California -- \$1.2 million -- a technical study grant for transportation planning in the

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San Francisco Bay area, including regional, intermodal and transit planning projects. When coupled with \$600,000 in local and State funds, the MTC will have \$1.8 million available for their 1972-73 unified work program. In addition, UMTA's funding will be supplemented with planning funds from the FHWA and the FAA, Secretary Volpe said.

Part of the UMTA grant will cover technical feasibility and planning studies by local transit operators and agencies from the City and County of San Francisco, the Cities of Napa and Walnut Creek and from Sonoma County. (UMTA Project No. CA-09-0025)

* Southern California Association of Governments, Los Angeles -- \$1,025,000 -- also a technical study grant which, when matched with \$512,500 in local funds, will provide the Los Angeles region with \$1.5 million for mass transportation planning. The FHWA and FAA also will help fund SCAG's 1973 unified work program, which will support a continuation of the region's intermodal, comprehensive transportation planning program. In addition, specific transit planning projects sponsored by sub-regional agencies, such as the Southern California Rapid Transit District and the Orange County Transit District, will be included in the overall project.

"Perhaps, the most important part of this project will be studies of rapid transit potentialities in the Los Angeles area," Secretary Volpe said. "The project includes drawing up a priority plan for implementing a rapid transit system and doing preliminary engineering work in top priority corridors." (CA-09-0022)

* Erie and Niagara Counties Regional Planning Board, Grand Island, New York -- \$295,133 -- the first grant to the area by UMTA will be used to aid in the continuation of transportation planning in addition to helping implement five planning projects. The Planning Board will use this Federal two-thirds grant, local one-third money and some FHWA funds to refine earlier planning, including the planning of a proposed rapid transit line between Buffalo and Amherst. (NY-09-0014)

* Delaware River Port Authority, Camden, New Jersey -- \$250,726 -- additional Federal funding to increase the scope of the Authority's efforts to develop a unified and coordinated rapid transit system, with supporting modes of transit, in the southern New Jersey area. The Authority currently is operating the highly-successful Lindenwold rapid transit line between southern New Jersey and Philadelphia.

"Today's grant will allow the Authority to plan extensions of the Lindenwold line and to lay the groundwork for new rapid transit lines," Administrator Villarreal said. (INT-T9-9)

* North Central Texas Council of Governments, Arlington, Texas -- \$195,000 -- additional UMTA funding to support a second year of the COG's continued transit planning process. The 12-month grant will specifically support the development of forecasts, plans and evaluations for public transportation in the central Texas area.

"In addition, work carried out under this project will be coordinated with highway and aviation activities for a total transportation approach to COG's continued planning process," Secretary Volpe said. (TEX-T9-12)

* Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission and the State of Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Waukesha, Wisconsin -- \$181,849 -- to support a continued transportation planning program and to conduct a major travel survey in the Milwaukee area, with additional funding to come from the FHWA and from HUD. (WISC-T9-8)

* Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, St. Petersburg, Florida -- \$160,000 -- to support continued transportation planning in the Tampa Bay area under a unified work program funded and supported by UMTA, FHWA, FAA and HUD. The matching share of today's UMTA grant will be provided by the Florida Department of Transportation. The project will include a preliminary rapid transit technology study and funds to coordinate support services for planning activities of a soon-to-be-formed Regional Transportation Authority. (FL-09-0010)

* Tuscaloosa County Parking and Transit Authority -- \$33,333 -- two-thirds Federal funding, matched with \$16,667 in local funds and services, to determine the feasibility of starting a mass transit system in the Tuscaloosa area. The UMTA technical study will examine the need for a transit system, the type of system best suited for the area and the operation and financial aspects of the proposed system. (AL-09-0003)

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