



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe today announced ten new grants totaling \$836,648 for the improvement of urban mass transportation.

The grants were made by the Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration as a part of President Nixon's multi-billion dollar program to improve public transit service in the nation's cities.

"The grants for capital equipment are expected to have almost immediate effect in improving transit service in many areas, and the planning grants will offer future solutions to better transportation in other areas," Secretary Volpe said.

Carlos C. Villarreal, UMTA Administrator, said the grants announced today "typify UMTA's objective of improving transportation for all Americans. They range from less than \$10,000 for small cities to more than \$300,000 for large metropolitan areas, and although they are relatively small in dollar amount they are vitally important to improved transit in these communities."

The ten grants were made to:

* City of St. Petersburg, Florida --\$313,210-- to assist in the purchase of 10 new 45-passenger air-conditioned transit buses, fare boxes, two-way radios, a wash rack, and a vacuum system. The Municipal Transit System is publicly owned and operated and is the principal mass transportation carrier

in St. Petersburg. This project is a continuation of a ten-year master plan for the general improvement of transit operations in the area.
(FL-03-0010)

* Washington State Highway Commission --\$62,600-- a technical study grant to the Washington State Highway Commission, Department of Highways, on behalf of the Washington State Legislative Transportation Committee. This study will provide transit planning to the three medium sized Washington urban areas of Pasco-Kennewick-Richland, Kelso-Longview, and Aberdeen-Cosmopolis-Hoquiam. The study will develop realistic transit proposals and basic data for continued local public transportation planning. The development of transit proposals for these three communities may also be used as models for similar medium and small sized communities in the State.
(WA-09-0007)

* Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) --\$100,000-- supplemental technical study grant increases total Federal participation in the (DVRPC) project to \$434,000. The original grant of \$334,000 was made in June 1972 to assist in financing the transit-related portions of DVRPC's Unified Work Program. This supplemental grant will assist in financing a transit study to evaluate alternative systems for public transportation distribution system in Trenton, New Jersey. A thorough analysis of various technologies will be undertaken in order to develop a distribution system compatible with Trenton's transportation needs. (IT-09-0025)

* Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) --\$96,620-- technical study grant for the transit portion of the Cleveland-Akron area continuing transportation planning process. A previous grant of \$582,000 was made last May for the refinement of a transit development program for the urban areas of the region. (OH-09-0012)

* Transit Authority of Northern Kentucky (TANK) --\$21,088-- technical study grant to provide budget requirements, staff needs, and the guidance necessary to prepare a transit program. Because of the prospect of the area's transportation system ceasing operations, a program for public operation of the transit system and preparation of a potential capital grant application was needed. (KY-09-0005)

* City of La Crosse, Wisconsin --\$24,000-- technical study grant to establish the feasibility of public ownership and/or operation, the basic need for transit, the possible use of existing railroad right-of-way for transit use, and to make short-term recommendations regarding transit's role in the total transportation system. (WI-09-0010)

* City of Bloomington, Indiana --\$20,000-- technical study grant to examine the feasibility of an areawide bus system to provide service to Indiana University and the City of Bloomington. The study will investigate integration of the existing University Campus Bus System and the Bloomington Transit Authority into one system and close coordination of the two systems to provide areawide transit service. If feasible, the study also will incorporate the design of a transit development program. (IN-09-0005)

* Missouri Department of Community Affairs --\$85,000-- to assist in funding a short range study of the operations and financing of the Bi-State Development Agency, the area's transit operator. The results of this study will be combined with the results of a statewide study to recommend legislation which will provide a long-term solution to the financing of public transportation services in the State of Missouri. (MO-09-0002)

* Coastal Plain Area Planning and Development Commission (Valdosta, Georgia) --\$8,930-- technical study grant to review existing transit operations, examine alternatives of public versus private ownership, and to develop a transit program for the local area. The study will examine fare policies, sources of funding, and equipment needs. (GA-09-0011)

* City of Oxnard, California --\$105,200-- capital grant to assist in the purchase of two 40-45 passenger air-conditioned buses, two 31-35 passenger buses, and four electric fare boxes. The new buses will allow the City to replace old equipment and to institute a new route to the southwest portion of the urban area. (CA-03-0053)

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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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