



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# NEWS

## URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20590

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 3, 1975

UMTA 75-01  
Phone: (202) 426-4043

U. S. Secretary of Transportation Claude S. Brinegar today announced two grants totaling \$12,512,896 to the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority (SEMTA), Detroit, Michigan. The Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) grants are designed to assist in a major program to improve public transportation in the Detroit area.

The first grant for \$12,305,640 will help buy 111 new buses, 250 bus stop shelters, automatic coin handling and counting equipment, and 7,000 bus stop signs. In addition, an existing building will be acquired and converted to a bus storage and maintenance facility. The grant also provides for the purchase and installation of a two-way voice communication radio system with console and base stations located at SEMTA terminals.

Of the new buses, 85 are 50-passenger and 20 have a 46-passenger capacity. Six smaller buses are being specially equipped with hydraulic lifts to provide service to the area's elderly and handicapped persons. An additional 12 buses similarly equipped are being purchased under a State of Michigan program. The eighteen special van-like buses will be used on a demand responsive basis throughout the metropolitan area to transport persons who cannot use the regular route service. Other conveniences being provided to elderly and handicapped patrons include special lighting, stanchions and grip rails on all regular route buses and the institution of half-fares during off-peak periods, weekends and holidays.

The 61 standard size coaches are replacements for a like number of vehicles 14 years of age and older. The new equipment represents a continuing effort to improve the attractiveness of bus service in the Detroit area. (UMTA Project No. MI-03-0030).

The second grant of \$207,256 supplements a previous award of \$10,853,840 and provides for the purchase and renovation of an existing building in Clinton Township, Michigan, to serve as a regional bus maintenance facility. It also provides for alterations in items previously approved. (UMTA Project No. MI-03-0029-02).

The Michigan State Department of Highways and Transportation is providing the local one-fifth share of the total project cost.

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For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043 or Mr. K. Ross Childs, Acting General Manager, Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority, 211 Fort Street West, Detroit, Michigan 48231, (313) 962-9800. (UMTA Project No. MI-03-0030)

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