



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# NEWS

## URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR RELEASE WEDNESDAY  
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UMTA 76-46

Robert E. Patricelli Administrator of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) today announced a \$13,149,600 grant to help buy 220 new air-conditioned, diesel-powered transit buses and related support equipment for the Chicago Transit Authority.

In announcing the grant, the UMTA Administrator said, "Chicago's transit system is one of the nation's finest, and has established a solid record in the effective use of its Federal grant funds."

Today's announced grant supplements previous funding of \$145.6 million for a program of bus transit improvements started two years ago by the Chicago Transit Authority. The Chicago metropolitan area has been awarded \$63.1 million in UMTA grants within the last eight weeks.

Patricelli acknowledged that "upgrading of Chicago's bus fleet is vital to the continued economic growth of the community." He added, "The jobs and mobility of thousands of commuters and local residents alike depend on reliable public transportation; I am pleased that UMTA has been able to make a significant contribution to this transit improvement effort."

The grant helps buy 200 new 49 to 53-passenger buses as replacements for a like number of obsolete or inoperative vehicles.

Funds also are provided for the purchase of 20 small buses equipped with lifts and other special equipment needed to accommodate passengers confined to wheelchairs. These buses will be used to implement the UMTA-funded "Special Transit Service Project for the Mobility Limited," a study sponsored by the city of Chicago as an effort to improve the mobility of handicapped and elderly persons.

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A local source for additional information is Mr. Ron Luczak Manager, Capital Development, Chicago Transit Authority, Merchandise Mart Plaza, P.O. Box 3555, Chicago, Illinois 60665

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