



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

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UMTA 76-65

A \$678,896 grant to the Berkshire Regional Transit Authority to assist in the purchase of 16 new air-conditioned buses, four vans, 12 fare boxes, a communications system and other bus improvements in Pittsfield, Massachusetts was announced today by Robert E. Patricelli, Administrator of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA).

The Administrator noted that "a proportionately high percentage of the residents of Pittsfield are dependent upon public transportation. The ever-increasing demand for additional transit service is evidenced by projected ridership increases from the current 252,000 riders per year to an estimated 670,448 riders by 1980."

"Accordingly," Patricelli said, "up to three new routes must be added and I am especially pleased that Federal funds are available to help buy the buses and other equipment needed to serve the people of Pittsfield."

Ten of the new diesel coaches are 30-passenger vehicles specially equipped with retractable steps, padded stanchions, non-skid flooring and special lighting at doorways to enhance their use by Pittsfield's elderly and handicapped persons. These buses allow an expansion of regularly scheduled service from three to six routes.

Four vans being purchased will replace obsolete vehicles used in operating a demand responsive service as a supplement to fixed route service. Six used 23-passenger buses also will be acquired from the private contractor-operator and used as spares on both the fixed route and demand responsive service.

Additional equipment being acquired includes a radio communications system, 12 fare boxes, 100 bus stop signs and five bus passenger shelters.

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A local source for additional information is Mr. Phillip Ahern, Berkshire Regional Transit Authority, Central Annex, Room 311, Second Street, Pittsfield, Massachusetts 01201, (413) 499-4459. (MA-03-0032).

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