



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# NEWS

## URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20590

FOR RELEASE MONDAY P.M.  
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UMTA 76-66

A \$6,834,400 grant to help buy 98 new 45-passenger buses and related bus transit equipment for the Lower Pioneer Valley Regional Transit Authority of Springfield, Massachusetts was announced today by Robert E. Patricelli Administrator of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA).

In announcing the grant, the UMTA Administrator noted that the Transit Authority contracts with private operators to provide mass transit service, to more than 14.5 million passengers each year in the Springfield region and surrounding area.

In addition to the 98 new diesel-powered, air-conditioned buses, the grant provides for the purchase of five new 8 to 12-passenger vans which will assure mobility for elderly and handicapped persons in the communities of Springfield, Chicopee, Northampton and Westfield. The vans will be operated in a demand responsive mode by five different councils on aging. The buses and vans are replacements for obsolete vehicles, some of which are up to 25 years old.

"The acquisition of this new bus fleet will provide Springfield area residents with a more efficient, convenient and reliable transit service," the Administrator said. He commended local officials for "their dedication to providing improved public transportation for all categories of Springfield's citizens."

Vehicles presently in use average more than 17 years of age. The new buses are expected to increase reliability significantly and result in substantial savings in maintenance costs.

Also included in the planned improvements are the purchase of 130 registering fare boxes, 3000 bus stop signs, 60 bus passenger shelters, radio communication equipment and service vehicles.

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A local source for additional information is Mr. Terry Tornek, Administrator, Lower Pioneer Valley Regional Transit Authority, 31 Elm Street, Springfield, Massachusetts 01103, (413) 732-6248. (UMTA Project No. MA-03-0048)

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