



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR RELEASE WEDNESDAY.
July 28, 1976

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UMTA 76-66

A grant of \$175,700 in support of a special transit service and job creation demonstration program to be operated in Manhattan's Lower East Side in New York City was announced today by Robert E. Patricelli, Administrator of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA).

A door-to-door transportation service will be available to 25,000 elderly and disabled residents in the program's service area, and jobs will be created for ex-offenders and drug addicts in human service careers as drivers, attendants, and service dispatchers.

The project will be operated by the Vera Institute of Justice in cooperation with local service agencies. The project is a joint effort of the Urban Mass Transportation Administration and the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare and State and local governments.

"One of the most innovative features of this project" the Administrator noted, "is that by developing service to meet the needs of one population group, rehabilitative jobs are being created for another group.

Major objectives are to improve mobility of elderly and disabled residents, to improve the delivery of health and social services and to employ disadvantaged groups in human service/transportation jobs. Another objective is to demonstrate the cost-effectiveness of integrated funding in the operation of a specialized urban transportation service.

The demonstration service will operate 10 new 15-passenger vans approximately 12 hours per day each weekday and seven hours per day on weekends. Five vehicles are being equipped with lifts for the convenience of wheelchair users.

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A local source for additional information is Ms. Claire Cooney, Vera Institute of Justice, 30 East 39th Street, New York, New York 10016, (212) YU6-5380. (NY-06-0053).

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