



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

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Two grants totaling \$1,023,920 to assist in West Virginia's Transportation Remuneration Incentive Program (TRIP) to improve the mobility of low income elderly and handicapped persons were announced today by Robert E. Patricelli, Administrator of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA).

The TRIP program offers low income elderly and handicapped persons subsidized tickets that can be used to purchase transportation from any participating provider in the State. "The TRIP network," Patricelli said, "includes intercity carriers, taxi operations and public and private transit operations augmented by new services."

Patricelli noted that with today's grants \$2,188,674 has been made available for start-up operating costs, in three regions of West Virginia and for planning and administrative costs associated with the project. "The innovative program was conceived by the West Virginia Department of Welfare," Patricelli said, "to help meet the transportation needs of elderly and handicapped people with low incomes and to provide and promote new and improved transportation services for all persons throughout the State."

The two grants represent second year funding of the TRIP project which also receives assistance from the Department's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Department of Health, Education and Welfare's Administration on Aging, the Office of Economic Opportunity, and the West Virginia Department of Welfare.

A key element in the development of new transportation providers in West Virginia is the establishment of transportation regions based on the eleven existing regional planning and development councils. The new regions are expected to be operational within the next year with UMTA and FHWA each sharing operational costs within these regions. Within each region a TRIP primary network will be established as a conventional fixed route, fixed schedule bus system using small and medium size buses. A demand routed feeder system will coordinate with the primary network.

One grant announced today is for \$720,000 for start-up operating costs and for project planning and administrative expenses. (WV-06-0008-01).

The other grant for \$303,920 is to continue funding of the planning and administrative aspects of the TRIP program. Further participation in the project is subject to both the availability of Federal funding and an annual review and evaluation of the progress of the project. (WV-09-8001-01)

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A local source for additional information is Mrs. Grace Strain, West Virginia Department of Welfare, Charleston, West Virginia 25305, (304) 348-3780.

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