



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

TAD-493

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR RELEASE TUESDAY
September 28, 1976

Contact: Joe Marshall
Phone: (202) 426-4043
UMTA 76-97

Two grants totaling \$16,379,156 to the Bi-State Development Agency, St. Louis, Missouri, to assist in the purchase of 180 new buses and 14 new 19-passenger vans specially equipped to accommodate wheelchair users, were announced today by Robert E. Patricelli, Administrator of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA).

The UMTA Administrator emphasized that the grant would permit "a significant expansion of bus transit service." Since only 66 buses are replacements for obsolete equipment, the remaining 114 buses will be scheduled for service improvements.

The fourteen 19-passenger specially equipped vans are designed for use in a demand-responsive system which will provide for the mobility needs of the region's elderly and handicapped persons.

Patricelli commended local transit officials on the "prudent use of Federal funds in a comprehensive service improvement program for the benefit of commuters throughout the area." "This is the largest single UMTA commitment for improvements to Bi-State's all bus transit system." A total of more than \$47 million has been made available to purchase 756 new buses to upgrade the Bi-State bus fleet and expand service since 1968.

The first grant of \$12,811,064 provides assistance in the purchase of 40 new 31 to 35-passenger buses, 44 new 40 to 45-passenger buses and 96 new 49 to 53-passenger buses. It also includes the purchase and installation of 114 registering type fare boxes, 194 radios, 9 bus washers and related bus transit equipment. Service improvements recommended in the region's Transit Improvement Program include the fleet expansion by an additional 114 new vehicles to accommodate the System's 62 million annual riders. (IT-03-0030).

The \$3,568,092 formula apportioned funds help purchase the specially equipped vans, painting and refurbishing of 280 fleet vehicles ranging in age from three to five years, 250 bus stop passenger shelters with benches and other related improvements. (IT-05-0001).

"It is the first time the Bi-State Transit System has applied its formula funds for capital improvements," Patricelli said.

- 0 -

A local source for additional information is Mr. Robert Baer, Executive Director, Bi-State Development Agency, 818 Olive Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63110, 314/771-1650.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION
ADMINISTRATION
Washington, D.C. 20590

Official Business

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION
ADMINISTRATION
DOT 511



FIRST CLASS

