



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# NEWS

## URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION WASHINGTON, D. C. 20590

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### FEDERAL GRANT FOR NEW BUS FLEET IN PITTSBURGH

A grant of \$19,491,660 to the Port Authority of Allegheny County for the purchase of 220 new radio-equipped air-conditioned buses for use in the Pittsburgh area was announced today by Robert E. Patricelli, Administrator of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA).

Patricelli commended local officials for their "dedication to improved mass transit service and prudent use of Federal funds for the benefit of commuters and other transit patrons throughout the Pittsburgh area."

The Administrator expressed confidence that "the increased reliability and added comfort of the new vehicles will attract additional new riders to the already fine system. Benefits in reduced congestion, pollution and the need for construction of new roads and added parking facilities are expected."

"The purchase of 220 new air-conditioned buses as replacements for a like number of vehicles averaging 16.6 years old, many of which are not air-conditioned, exemplifies

the Authority's concern for greater reliability and increased passenger comfort." Patricelli said.

The Administrator noted that the Port Authority "accomplished its peak transit patronage year in 1975, carrying 109,636,359 passengers, up 18,604,677 since 1972."

The new buses include 20 new articulated buses with a capacity of 63 to 67 passengers, 120 new 47 to 49 passenger coaches, 20 new 49 passenger suburban type buses, 40 new 41 to 43 passenger buses, 10 new 33 to 35 passenger buses and 10 new 16 to 19 passenger vehicles.

The high capacity articulated buses will be used on major arterial and express routes, the standard transit and suburban coaches will be used on heavily traveled routes throughout the city and the smaller buses will be used on less heavily patronized routes in both residential and downtown areas.

The grant also provides for the purchase and installation of 1,100 fare collection units, 14 remote processing computer terminals, bicycle lockers, bus passenger shelters, benches, bus stop signs and related bus transit equipment.

A local source for additional information is Mr. James R. Maloney, Executive Director, Port Authority of Allegheny County, Beaver and Island Avenues, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15233, (412) 237-7075. (PA-03-0064).

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