



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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MEMPHIS TO RECEIVE FEDERAL GRANT FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS

U.S. Secretary of Transportation Brock Adams today announced a \$3,674,000 grant to assist in the purchase of 54 new air-conditioned, diesel-powered transit buses, bus stop passenger shelters and related bus transit improvements in the Memphis, Tennessee metropolitan area.

The Secretary said that "more than 15 million passengers use the publicly owned system each year." He noted that, "in February 1965 Memphis received one of the very first grants to be awarded under the Department's 1964 Urban Mass Transportation Act."

Adams said, "the grant being awarded today marks the beginning of a new public transportation improvement program in Memphis which is expected to improve significantly the quality of transportation in the area."

The grant provides for the purchase of 44 new 50-passenger buses which will replace a like number of 13 to 15-year old buses. Replacement of the older buses is expected to provide better service and added comfort for passengers as well as to lower maintenance costs. All new buses will be equipped with non-skid flooring, stepwell lighting, and stanchions to facilitate their use by elderly and handicapped persons.

Ten small buses being acquired will be operated in a shuttle service between the downtown area of Memphis and the medical center. They will also be used for feeder service from residential areas to existing routes, and on low ridership routes. The new buses are more maneuverable than the four large buses currently serving these areas.

The Secretary commended local officials on the free downtown circulation system and noted the new service is "geared toward providing increased mobility for transit patrons in the central business district of Memphis as well as persons using shuttle service between the medical center complex and the downtown area."

Other new equipment being acquired under the grant includes registering fareboxes, bus passenger shelters, bus stop signs, maintenance tools and equipment, spare parts and office equipment.

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A local source for additional information is Mr. Houston Ishmale, General Manager, Memphis Area Transit Authority, 821 Beale Street, Memphis, Tennessee 38101, (901) 523-2525. (TN-03-0010)

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