



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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\$5.9 MILLION FEDERAL OPERATING GRANT TO ASSIST SEATTLE TRANSIT SYSTEM

U.S. Secretary of Transportation Brock Adams today announced a grant of \$5,990,000 to Seattle, Washington to help cover eligible operating expenses of the metropolitan area's public transportation system.

The Federal formula funds for operating assistance are being made available by the Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) under Section 5 provisions of the Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964, as amended, for the 1976 calendar year.

The Secretary said, "this grant underlines the continuing Federal commitment to help sustain and improve mass transportation service in our major cities." He cited Seattle's "all bus approach" to public transportation, "which shows the results of a careful consideration of all alternatives to improve the mobility of area residents."

"This grant is the first such award to Seattle to supplement continuing efforts by the local government to assist in meeting transit operating costs," Adams said.

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"Seattle is the Northwest area's principal city and a model for the entire nation in the development of a modern all bus public transportation system," he said. "The UMTA program has provided \$86.3 million for capital improvements to the region's bus system with an additional \$38 million committed through Fiscal Year 1980 to complete the program."

The Secretary pointed out that the municipality of Metropolitan Seattle, "Metro Seattle," operates 538 motor coaches and 58 trolley coaches over 96 routes, and serves more than 40,000 passengers each year. As a result, increased service on expanded routes and the use of modern marketing techniques, the Seattle transit system has increased passenger volume over the past three years by 25 percent.

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A local source for additional information is Mr. Robert R. Matthews, Grants Officer, Municipality of Metropolitan Seattle, 600 First Avenue, Seattle, Washington 98104, (206) 447-6586. (WA-05-4006)

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