



DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

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

FOR RELEASE FRIDAY
June 21, 1974

UMTA 94-74
Phone: (202) 426-4043

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) today announced a grant of \$890,000 to the City of Eau Claire, Wisconsin, to assist in acquiring the transit assets of the privately-owned Eau Claire Transportation Company, 11 new 45-passenger air-conditioned, diesel transit buses, maintenance, and related bus transit equipment.

Because of declining patronage, increased deficits, and drastically reduced service the private carrier has informed the city of its intention to cease operations. The decision to retain transportation in the Eau Claire area through public ownership is an outgrowth of an UMTA funded technical study and resulting five-year transit improvement program. The study recommended acquisition and a referendum gave overwhelming support to public ownership.

UMTA Administrator Frank C. Herringer noted that each of the buses are being equipped with two-way radios, fareboxes and a public address system. The public address system will be used for announcing stops, a convenience that is particularly important to the proportionately large number of elderly users. The eleven buses will replace seventeen obsolete, unreliable 1948 to 1957 coaches. Also included are rehabilitation of the present transit garage and the construction of a building to house bus cleaning equipment.

- more -

- 2 -

The one-fifth local share of the total project cost is being provided by the City of Eau Claire from the sale of general obligation bonds.

- 0 -

For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043 or Mr. Ray E. Wachs, City Manager, City Hall, Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54701 (UMTA Project No. WI-03-0016)

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

