



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# NEWS

## URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20590

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Contact: Robert R. Trotter  
Phone: (202) 426-4043  
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A \$1,070,000 grant to Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan to assist in construction of docking facilities and to refurbish a ferry vessel was announced today by Robert E. Patricelli, Administrator of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA).

Patricelli noted that the region's Eastern Upper Peninsula Transportation Authority operates both the ferry boat and bus system for the three counties of Chippewa, Luce and Mackinac.

"The ferry boats transport the system's buses and carried more than 400,000 additional passengers last year, their first year of operation by the Authority," Patricelli said. "This is the first UMTA grant to help improve ferry service in the Great Lakes area," he added.

Under the grant, one of the two boats owned by the Authority will be completely refurbished and a new diesel-powered, single-screw engine installed. Because of a loss of power this boat has been unable to negotiate through the channel ice during the winter months. The new engine and resulting increase in power will enable the boat to operate year-round.

Docking facilities on Sugar Island and the Mainland will be constructed at new locations and facilities on the Mainland side of Neebish Island will consist of all new construction at the present location. The Drummond Island docks will be refurbished.

Improvements also include the construction of two shelters for waiting passengers, one at Sugar Island and the other at the Mainland docks.

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A local source for additional information is Mr. Roger L. Fisher, Executive Director and General Manager, Eastern Upper Peninsula Transportation Authority, 322 Court Street, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan 49783, (906) 632-3421. (MI-03-0056)

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