



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20590

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UMTA 76- 110

A \$43 million grant to the Southern California Association of Governments to help cover eligible operating expenses of the Southern California Rapid Transit District in the Los Angeles-Long Beach urbanized area was announced today by Robert E. Patricelli, Administrator of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA).

The Federal formula funds for operating assistance are being made available under Section 5 provisions of the Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964, as amended by the National Mass Transportation Assistance Act of 1974.

Today's announced grants and two previous operating assistance awards combine for a total of \$85,789,000 in federal operating assistance to the area's public transportation system since 1974.

Patricelli said, "The grant reflects a strong and growing Federal commitment to improved public transportation and increased mobility for all Americans. The grant approval, Patricelli added, "follows assurance that State and local government support and non-fare box revenues will be maintained for provision of mass transportation services on a level equal to or exceeding assistance provided for the two preceding local fiscal years."

The Administrator also pointed out that the Los Angeles-Long Beach metropolitan area has previously received \$85.6 million for the public acquisition of suburban privately owned bus companies, the purchase of 1108 new buses and other capital improvements to the widely used all-bus system.

The Southern California Rapid Transit District operates 2,417 buses over 3,825 route miles and carries nearly 240 million passengers, an increase from only 142 million passengers in 1973.

Other significant Section 5 requirements for Federal operating assistance are to improve or continue service and to assure a charge of not more than one-half of the peak hour fare to elderly and handicapped persons using the system during non-peak hours.

A local source for additional information is Mr. Jack Gilstrap, General Manager, Southern California Rapid Transit District, 425 South Main Street, Los Angeles, California 90013, (213) 972-6000. (CA-05-4052).

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