FOR RELEASE WEDNESDAY
December 8, 1976

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UMTA   76- 132

BOSTON RECEIVES $16 MILLION GRANT

A grant of $16,868,565 to Boston's Massachusetts Bay

Transportation Authority (MBTA) to help cover eligible operating

expenses of the region's public transportation system 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.

Patricelli said "the grant represents a Federal commitment
to all modes of public transportation in the metropolitan Boston
area." He commended MBTA officials on their "continuing efforts
to improve service, reliability and comfort on one of the nation's
most extensively used transit systems." Boston's effective use
of Federal funds and annual ridership of more than 150 million
patrons is solid evidence of the community's dedication to
improved public transportation," he added.

Approval of the grant follows assurance by the State that
State and local government support will be maintained for provi-
sion of mass transportation services on a level equal to or
exceeding assistance provided for the two preceding local fiscal

years. Other requirements 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 during non-peak
hours.

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A local source for additional information is Mr. Robert R.
Kiley Chairman, Massachusetts, Bay Transportation Authority, 500
Arborway, Boston, Massachusetts, 02130, (617) 722-5176.
(MA-05-4014).