



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION WASHINGTON, D. C. 20590

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\$36.9 MILLION OPERATING FUNDS TO CHICAGO TRANSIT SYSTEM

A grant of \$36,940,557 to Chicago's Regional Transportation Authority to help cover eligible operating expenses of the Chicago Transit Authority's bus and rapid transit systems 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 maintain reasonable rates for public transportation service on the Chicago Transit Authority's 132 bus lines and 7 rapid transit routes."

The Administrator commended local officials for their "continuing efforts to improve service, reliability and comfort while holding fares to a reasonable level." He noted that in Chicago, the nation's second largest city, approximately 1.2 million persons use the public transportation system each day. Ridership on the system is exceeded only by the New York City transit system.

Including today's \$36.9 million grant the Section 5 UMTA commitment to the Chicago area for operating assistance within the past year totals \$85.2 million.

Approval of the grant follows assurance by the State of Illinois that State and local government support 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. 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. Milton Pikarsky, Chairman, Regional Transportation Authority, 300 North State Street, Chicago, Illinois 60610, (312) 836-4000. (IL-05-4023)

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