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FIRST URBAN INITIATIVES GRANTS GO TO 11 CITIES

Working in cooperation with other federal agencies, state and local officials and private investors, the Department of Transportation will provide assistance for transit-related projects in 11 U.S. cities, Secretary of Transportation Brock Adams said today.

Awards totaling \$6,980,584 represent DOT's first quarterly announcement of Urban Initiatives grants selected according to the criteria of the President's Urban Policy.

The cities for which grants have been approved are Fall River, Mass.; Atlanta, Ga.; St. Louis, Mo.; Denver, Colo.; Bellingham, Wash.; and Long Beach, Calif.

In addition, \$19,942,040 has been reserved by DOT's Urban Mass Transportation Administration to finance Urban Initiatives projects in Pittsburgh, Pa.; Dallas, Texas; Baltimore, Md.; and Lawrence, Mass. Approval of these projects is contingent upon compliance with UMTA requirements which is expected within 90 days.

UMTA also announced approval of grants for technical studies to support proposed Urban Initiative projects in Bridgeport, Conn., and Atlanta, Ga.

The \$200 million DOT Urban Initiatives Program, which is being administered by the department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration was authorized by Congress as part

of the Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1978. Implementation of the Program was announced February 15 by Secretary Adams and Jack H. Watson, Assistant to the President for Intergovernmental Affairs.

"Under this program, "Secretary Adams said, "UMTA will help finance transit-related projects, such as joint development, intermodal terminals and transit malls, to help improve our cities and provide employment opportunities to long-term unemployed and disadvantaged people in urban areas".

The following Urban Initiatives grants have been approved by UMTA:

- o A \$64,000 grant to Fall River, Mass., to help design and acquire land for an off-street transfer facility to be located in the central business district. The project will be developed in conjunction with a \$1.6 million HUD-funded parking facility/pedestrian mall project. The entire downtown revitalization program includes \$8.8 million in private investment. (MA-03-0081).

- o An \$88,000 grant to the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority will transform a block adjacent to the Five Points Rapid Transit Station into a bus-only transit area. The block is an extension of a 2-block transit mall project to be built with HUD and Atlanta city funds. The combined project, estimated at \$400,000, will provide a central point for intermodal rail/bus transfer and downtown circulation. (GA-03-0020).

- o A \$4,848,740 grant to the Bi-State Development Agency in St. Louis, Mo., will renovate two buildings located in an historic area to house approximately 300 administrative transit personnel. The Bi-State involvement in the district-known as Laclede's Landing--leads the revitalization of the area. HUD, EDA and the Department of Interior have provided \$1.5 million in grants for area development. Private investment in the area since the Bi-State purchase amounts to approximately \$25 million. Overall private investment is expected to reach \$45-50 million within the next five years. (MO-03-0010).

- o A \$765,600 grant to the Denver, Colo., Regional Transportation District will provide for the design and engineering of a \$45 million project which includes the construction of two transit terminals at opposite ends of an 11-block pedestrian and transit mall in the downtown Denver business district.

Private investment has been obtained for development of air rights over one of the terminals and other private funds are expected to be forthcoming for development along the mall. (CO-03-0015).

- o A \$362,244 grant to Bellingham, Wash., for land acquisition and engineering required for converting an abandoned railroad depot to a central bus transfer facility and terminal. The renovation is expected to be the catalyst for private investment in a shopping arcade/public market. (WA-03-0029).

- o An \$852,000 grant to the Long Beach, Calif., Public Transportation Company provides for design and engineering of a transit mall which will connect elements of a proposed new civic center, shopping mall and convention complex. HUD and EPA will fund parts of the shopping center, parking facilities and finance downtown housing. Private investment is anticipated to amount to approximately \$170 million for a total program of \$247 million. (CA-03-0196).

Funds have been set aside for the following projects:

- o \$2,500,000 for a Dallas transfer facility. The project anticipates a coordinated effort by the private and public sectors to create the city's first major sheltered bus transfer facility in the central business district. Local funds will finance construction of an information center, passenger shelters and landscaping. (TX-03-0036).

- o A \$269,160 grant to Lawrence, Mass., for a new circulation system will enhance that town's central business district. An overall redevelopment program in Lawrence already includes investments of \$8.6 million for state housing projects, \$7 million in FHWA funded right-of-way improvements, \$50,000 for a new park, \$6 million in state-funded city park investments and \$450,000 in local funds for renovation of facades. The UMTA money will provide transit service between the revitalized inner city, the new park and the improved downtown retail district. (MA-03-0082).

- o \$7,172,880 to Pittsburgh, Pa., for land acquisition, engineering and design of the Midtown underground trolley station. The station will be the impetus for a \$126.5 million complex to be built by U.S. Steel Corporation at the location. Plans for the complex call for retail and office space, a hotel, open plaza, pedestrian walkways, and parking facility. (PA-03-0095).

\$10,000,000 has been set aside for three joint development projects in Baltimore.

o The Baltimore Gardens joint development project involves the extension and enlargement of the Lexington Market Transit Station to accommodate the development of a multi-level complex which is expected to generate annual retail sales of more than \$40 million. The overall project will serve as a major catalyst for the revitalization of the entire downtown retail district.

o The North Avenue Station joint development project includes land acquisition, business relocation, site preparation and improvements necessary to develop a multi-level residential, retail and office facility around a community space to be constructed as part of the expanded North Avenue Station of the Baltimore Rapid Transit System. The overall project is expected to generate significant private investment and the revitalization of a neighborhood currently characterized by abandoned, boarded up storefront business buildings.

o The Reisterstown Plaza joint development project includes the construction of a secondary north public entrance to the Reisterstown Plaza Station and the development of approximately 50,000 square feet of office space and 25,000 square feet of retail space. (MD-03-0015).

In addition, to the above grants, UMTA will also participate in two technical studies grants in support of Urban Initiatives:

o A \$110,592 grant to the Greater Bridgeport Transit District supports analysis of the Bridgeport, Conn., business district improvements. It will help develop market feasibility and implementation data relating to potential joint development projects and will develop techniques for furthering transit and urban development goals. (CT-09-7001).

o A \$146,800 technical studies project to support development packaging activities in conjunction with rejuvenation of the historic Atlanta Underground and development of the MARTA Five Points Station in Atlanta.