



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UMTA 73-8

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Three western States have received grants totaling over \$2 million from the U.S. Department of Transportation for the improvement of urban mass transportation.

Four different cities received grants from the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), under President Nixon's \$3.1 billion urban mass transportation program.

All of today's grants are for the purchase of equipment needed to upgrade public transportation and will be financed in part by local contributions.

These grants represent the full range of Federal assistance for improved urban mass transportation. Although all four grants were officially announced during December and January in each of the individual localities, today's publication is the first national notice of the Government's recent efforts to upgrade mass transit on an overall basis.

The four grants were made to the:

* City of Phoenix, Arizona -- \$1,902,666 -- to assist in the purchase of 55 new 49-53 passenger air-conditioned diesel transit buses, 115 fare boxes, and ten passenger shelters. These improvements follow recommendations made in an UMTA funded technical study. The new buses will be leased by the city to the Phoenix Transit Company, the transit operator. Forty-five of the buses now in use in Phoenix are over 15 years old and will be replaced. The additional buses will be used to extend routes and initiate other service improvements. (AZ-03-0002)

* City of Gardena, California -- \$58,167 -- supplements a previous UMTA grant of \$271,698 to assist in the purchase of eight new 45-passenger transit buses and three new 33-passenger buses. Increased demands for service during rush-hour traffic necessitated a change in the size of buses required. Today's grant will allow the purchase of all 11 buses to accommodate 45-passengers. (CA-03-0031)

* City of Seattle, Washington -- \$589,886 -- to assist in the purchase of a "park-and-ride" lot accommodating 500 cars. The park-and-ride lot is currently being leased and used in conjunction with the UMTA sponsored Blue Streak exclusive busway demonstration project. The project has been highly successful during its two-year duration, and the results have prompted the city to continue and expand the project after the Federal demonstration funding ceases. (WA-03-0013)

* City of Bremerton, Washington -- \$255,770 -- to assist in the partial acquisition of assets of the local carrier, Bremerton-Charleston Transportation Company; buy seven new buses, eight bus shelters, 150 bus stop signs, and related transit equipment. The acquisition of some of the assets of the local carrier by the city will provide for public control of the equipment needed to ensure the continuation of transit service in Bremerton. The seven new buses will replace older buses now in use. (WA-03-0011)

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For further information, contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043, or contact the individual grantee. When calling or writing for information, please refer to the project number and to this press release number.

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