



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UMTA 73-11

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The U. S. Department of Transportation recently announced five grants totaling over \$2.4 million to three southern States for the improvement of urban mass transportation.

The grants were made by the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), under President Nixon's \$3.1 billion Urban Mass Transportation Assistance Act.

Although the five grants were officially announced during late December and early 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 grants will provide significant assistance in achieving both short and long range solutions to transit needs in the South, especially for many elderly persons.

The five grants were made to:

* St. Petersburg, Florida -- \$300,000 -- to implement a demand-responsive transportation system to increase the mobility of the elderly. The system will provide door-to-door service, by reservation, in a ten-square mile demonstration area, using specially equipped buses. Senior citizens over age 60 and the physically handicapped will be eligible for this special service. Several types of service will be tested in this demonstration program. (FL-06-0007)

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* East Central Florida Regional Planning Council, Winter Park, Florida -- \$40,000 -- to assist in financing a study to develop a mathematical model to forecast public transportation patronage for various service levels, prepare financial statements for each transportation alternative, analyze different organizational and funding structures, and prepare a five-year transit development program. (FL-09-0012)

* Orange-Seminole-Osceola Transportation Authority, Orlando, Florida -- \$1,797,580 -- to assist in the purchase of land and construction of a maintenance and office facility; purchase of 33 new 45-passenger air-conditioned transit buses, service vehicles, passenger shelters, fare boxes, and other equipment. (FL-03-0019)

* Regional Planning Commission for Jefferson, Orleans, St. Bernard and St. Tammany Parishes, New Orleans, Louisiana -- \$256,733 -- to assist in financing a study based on a 2-year unified work program, for multi-modal transportation planning. This grant will fund the first six months of the transit portion. It will include the update of short-range transit planning and the transit components of the continuing transportation planning process. (LA-09-0007)

* Charleston County Council, South Carolina -- \$41,400 -- to assist in financing a study designed to improve transit operations and increase patronage. This short-range program will provide a transit development program and extensive marketing plan for the area. (SC-09-0003)

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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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