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Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe today announced a \$40,000 grant to the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority.

The funds will be used to determine the best way to get Detroit inner-city residents to jobs located in the suburbs and to study ways to improve rail commuter service.

The grant, issued by DOT's Urban Mass Transportation Administration provides two-thirds of the \$60,000 cost of the study.

Many hundreds of jobs in the Detroit area go begging because inner city workers can't get to suburban job sites, Secretary Volpe said.

"Detroit is not the exception, but the rule," he added. "While more than 80 percent of all families in the United States own at least one automobile, many ghetto families own no car at all."

"If they can't get out to the jobs, they won't be able to work -- and if the opportunity to work is taken away, then all the social ills of our cities' ghettos will be compounded to an even greater degree," Volpe said.

The new grant supplements an earlier \$80,000 Federal grant to develop a unified and coordinated public transportation system in the greater Detroit region. Work already done on the broad study confirmed the need for improved public transportation for inner-city residents.

The commuter rail services to be studied will be on the Grand Trunk Western Railroad between Pontiac and Detroit and on the Penn Central Railroad between Ann Arbor and Detroit.

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