



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe today announced a \$226,666 Federal grant to the Bi-State Development Agency of St. Louis, Missouri, for the purchase of "Lock-type" fare boxes and other equipment.

Secretary Volpe said: "I note that Bi-State Agency, which operates buses in Missouri and Illinois in the metropolitan St. Louis area, has suffered an increasing number of armed bus holdups in recent years.

"To thwart this wave, Bi-State is seeking to adopt the 'Exact Fare' plan that has been successful in Washington, D. C., by completely eliminating money handling by the bus operators.

"I feel that if the operators of public transportation systems are to attract riders they must take all possible precautionary steps to safeguard drivers and passengers. From demonstrations in other cities, the 'Exact Fare' plan appears to be one of those steps."

In addition to purchasing 715 "Lock-type" fare boxes, Bi-State will construct six strong rooms at their service divisions.

Bi-State was established in 1949 by Compact between the States of Missouri and Illinois.

In 1967, the fleet of 1,064 regular and school buses carried approximately 75,570,000 passengers.

The initial payment of \$170,000 represents one-half the cost of the "Exact Fare" program. Within three years, an additional grant of \$56,666 will be payable to Bi-State to increase the Federal participation from one-half to two-thirds of the total cost when full planning requirements of the Urban Mass Transportation Act are satisfied.

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