

# SEMTA to improve GTW line

By TIM RICHARD

Commuters from the Bloomfield Hills and Birmingham stations to Detroit will find service expanded and more comfortable by Sept. 1 on what is now known as the Grand Trunk Western line.

The Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority Tuesday approved a \$2 million capital improvement program that will expand service by one-third and even pave parking lots at three stations.

A visibly excited Joseph P. Bianco Jr., SEMTA board chairman, said SEMTA will acquire and operate the Grand Trunk commuter service which for the past two years, it has been subsidizing to the tune

## Boat show anchors at Cobo Hall Jan. 31

The Greater Michigan Boat Show will open at Detroit's Cobo Hall for nine days beginning Jan. 31.

This year's show will have more than 700 boats and related marine equipment. In addition, the exhibits will include educational groups and service organizations.

General admission tickets will be available at the door beginning at noon on Saturday, Jan. 31, for \$2 for adults. Children under 12 years accompanied by an adult will be admitted free.

On display will be merchandise with an estimated value of \$4.5 million. The largest boat will be the 41-foot Morgan Outboard with center cockpit and sloped rigging. The smallest will be an 8-foot Sportak.

Special clinics, films and discussions will be conducted by individual exhibitors, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and the Law Enforcement Division, Department of Natural Resources. The Sheriff's Marine Divisions of Macomb and Oakland counties will be on hand with displays of crime prevention and marine safety information.

On Feb. 2 senior citizens will be admitted free to the entire exhibition. A special prize will be awarded to the oldest person who presents a valid boat registration and proof of age at the boat show office. Registrations will only be accepted on Monday. The winner will be announced during the show.



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of \$270,000 annually, or half the operating costs.

And for the first time, SEMTA, which has been doing lots of planning and operating some bus services, will be in the rapid transit business.

"OUR FIRST STEP was to save the service," Bianco said. "We began that in January of 1974 with a purchase of service contract with GTW."

"Now we are upgrading the service" with funds from the federal Urban Mass Transit Administration (UMTA) and the State Highway Commission.

The money will buy:

- 17 coaches and four engines from GTW Railroad
- Four new steam generators for the locomotives
- Refurbishing of all coaches, including air conditioning, lighting and heating
- A new diesel locomotive with double the horsepower of the older ones
- Eight used but first-class coaches from a dealer
- Modification of 25 coaches for "push-pull" service, which is railroad talk for a coach that can be pulled from either end. This eliminates the need to switch coaches
- Great improvements in the Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills and Pontiac stations—rebuilt platforms and parking lots that will be lighted, paved and landscaped
- Movement of the Detroit terminal a block closer to the downtown Renaissance Center and modification of the terminal for the placement of a fourth track
- New paint jobs for the coaches, both inside and outside. They will now carry the orange and red SEMTA stripes.

"THE BOARD approved an application for the GTW capital improvement program in June of 1974," said Larry Sales, SEMTA board secretary.

UMTA and the state have since been in the review process. Today's action gives

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## 2 residents named to board

Two area men have been appointed to the executive board of the Institute of Herpetology, jointly operated by Wayne State University and the University of Michigan.

Appointment of Sidney Dillick of Birmingham, dean of the WSU School of Social Work, and Margretta Styles of Farmington, dean of the WSU College of Nursing, were approved Jan. 16 by the WSU Board of Governors.

Dillick's appointment expires June 30, 1977; Dean Styles' on June 30, 1978.

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