

55 small buses, bigger terminal in federal grant

The federal government has approved funds for more small buses and an expanded bus garage in Troy for the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority (SEMTA).

A nearly \$10.5-million grant will allow SEMTA to purchase 55 small buses used by the elderly and handicapped in the metropolitan area. Part of the grant will also pay for expansion of SEMTA's Oakland Terminal at 2021 Barrett in Troy and rehabilitation of four Detroit Department of Transportation terminals.

Expansion of the Troy terminal will begin next spring.

A SEMTA spokeswoman said 29 of the new 12-passenger buses will be added to the Wayne County Advanced Reservation Transit (WAYCART) system; nine will be added to the Oakland County small bus system, and one to Macomb's.

Sixteen of the new buses will be replacements. The buses will be in service next spring.

THE GRANTS were part of a \$17.4-million package announced last week by Theodore Lutz, head of the Urban Mass Transit Administration.

The package includes an initial \$5 million for preliminary engineering surveys for the Woodward Ave. subway/surface light-rail line.

The preliminary engineering study will lead to a more accurate cost estimate of the rail line, which is proposed

to run underground from downtown Detroit to McNichols (Six Mile) Road and on surface between Six Mile and Eleven Mile Road in Royal Oak. Soil borings will be taken and station locations will be determined as part of the study.

The light rail line is the major portion of SEMTA's proposed \$1.5-billion regional transportation plan.

BIDS FOR the project will be submitted in November, contracts awarded in December, and the study will begin in January, SEMTA General Manager Larry E. Saleci said.

Preliminary studies are expected to take up to 20 months, with eventual cost ranging between \$20 and \$25 million.

Earlier this year the state approved an initial \$950,000 for preliminary engineering. The state is expected eventually to cover 20 percent of the total cost.

Future federal shares of the study are slated during the 1981 and 1982 budget years.

A \$2-million grant to complete SEMTA's commuter rail facility in Pontiac, rehabilitate a diesel locomotive and provide for other commuter rail improvements was also announced last week.

The commuter rail line runs between Detroit and Pontiac along the Grand Trunk Western Railroad right of way.

New pacts at OCC

Two unions at Oakland Community College are working under new contracts unanimously ratified recently by the OCC Board of Trustees.

Both contracts are retroactive to July 1 and expire June 30, 1983.

Local 1999 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO, represents 82 maintenance employees on OCC's four campuses and at the administration building.

Cost to the college of raises and fringe benefits will be 8.2 percent in fiscal 1980, 8.14 percent in 1981 and 7.5 percent in fiscal 1982, a college spokesman said.

Local 1999 members received a 53-cents across-the-board increase. They also will make a larger contribution on their prescription drug plan.

AFSCME Local 2042, representing 178 classified employees, will see Level 6 employees' pay start at \$4.38 and Level 23 at \$8.72.

Classified employees include clerk-typists, secretaries, some computer center personnel and such specialized employees as graphic artists and print shop workers.

Cost to the college of the Local 2042 contract will be 8.44 percent in 1980 and 8.35 percent in 1981, with the 1982 figures not being immediately available, the college spokesman said.

Meeting reviews transit

Public transportation and the future of the transportation engineer are the theme of a two-day conference beginning Thursday in the Dearborn Inn.

The meeting, open to the public, begins at 8 a.m. Thursday.

Guest speakers will be from General Motors Corp., the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority (SEMTA) and other public transportation agencies.

For reservations, call 584-1200, ext. 244.

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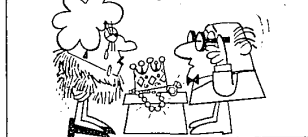
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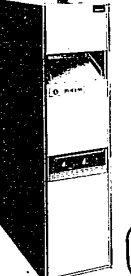
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