

Inner-City Workers Get Rides To Suburbs

A new express bus program connecting Detroit inner-city neighborhoods of high unemployment with suburban job locations has been announced

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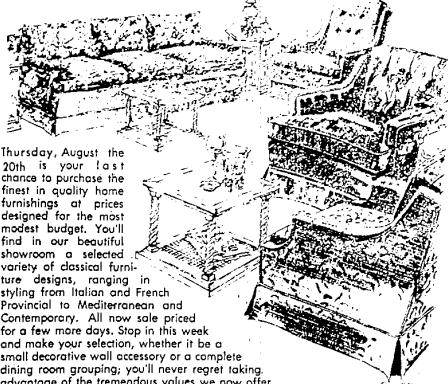
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today by the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority (SEMTA).

Initial operations are scheduled to begin Aug. 17 with two routes, the "New Haven Express" and the "Northwest-Lahser Limited".

The New Haven Express will transport workers to and from a job center in Detroit to the New Haven Foundry. The job center is operated by the Greater Detroit Chamber of Commerce and bus service was originally established through the Chamber's efforts. The Northwest-Lahser Limited will operate from Woodward and Jefferson to many employment sites along North Western Highway (Lodge Service Drive) in Southfield.

SEVERAL OTHER ROUTES will be developed in upcoming months as need for employees increases according to Mrs. Manuel J. Myers, chairman of the SEMTA Board's project committee.

Kuhn Asks Property Tax Action

State Sen. George W. Kuhn (D-W. Bloomfield) has called on the Taxation Committee of the House of Representatives to report out to the floor a three-part tax package to give relief to property taxpayers.

The Senate has already passed this package of bills, and it is currently awaiting action in the House.

"One bill would reduce the true cash value of property from 50 percent to 45 percent. Another bill holds the line on all current property assessments for the next 18 months, in order to stabilize the ever-increasing assessments that have taken place during the past two years."

The final bill would set up a Governor's Tax Survey Commission to analyze, in depth, the duties and functions of the local assessor, the local Board of Review, the State Tax Allocation Board, and the State Tax Commission.

It is felt that a complete review of all local taxing policies and administration is long overdue. Currently, local taxes are steadily increasing without the knowledge or approval of the people," Kuhn said.

Kuhn returned for the resumption of the 1970 session of the Legislature yesterday. And after hearing that he will be replaced next year by either Carl Pursell of Plymouth, who won a challenge in the Republican primary, or the Democratic nominee, Paul Kadish of Livonia.

A Democrat has never yet won the 14th Senate seat since its present district lines were established.

Purposes of the program is to enable inner-city employees to take advantage of job training and employment opportunities in the many locations not accessible to them by regular bus routes.

The two-year job-oriented demonstration program is funded by a \$315,000 federal service development grant from the urban mass transportation administration of the U.S. Department of Transportation. It is \$315,000 from the State of Michigan, plus a \$32,000 contribution in staff services from the Greater Detroit Chamber of Commerce.

Mrs. Myers, who is an inner-city resident and president of the Ralph Bunche Community Council noted that, "The inner-city unemployed, educated and uneducated, are a major barrier when they seek to obtain or hold jobs in suburban locations."

"Many do not own autos and they must depend heavily upon public transportation which is slow and roundabout when it serves such locations as bus stops, or upon car pools which disappear when drivers change shifts or jobs. This program will help alleviate that problem."

AFTER DELIVERING workers going on shift, busses will pick up workers coming off work, waiting if necessary when a shift is held overtime.

An advisory committee representing neighborhood organi-

zations, city and civic agencies and employer groups will assist SEMTA in ensuring that the program meets the needs of the users as well as employees.

SEMTA is a regional agency covering the six counties of Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, Washtenaw and Wayne.

It was created by the 1967 State Legislature with power to acquire, plan, construct, operate and maintain public transportation systems and facilities in the region.



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