

More bus routes opening up

By James Redbaugh
staff writer

SMART bus service in Oakland County will be expanded by the end of the year, including additional routes on Orchard Lake Road, Grand River and Dixie Highway, thanks to a \$12 million Urban Mass Transportation Grant announced Tuesday.

The grant, which SMART officials said they hope to combine with \$12.5 million in state matching funds and additional federal money over three years to further expand service in Oakland, Macomb and Wayne counties, was announced with great fanfare at a press conference at the SMART office in Royal Oak.

SMART general manager Albert Martin said the new routes would be bid to public or private bus line operators in an effort to streamline costs. If the routes are awarded to companies that already own the needed

buses, the first phase of the expanded service could begin as early as this summer. If new buses are purchased implementation could take up to nine months, Martin said.

SMART, the suburban mobility transportation authority for regional transportation, oversees bus service in Oakland, Macomb and Wayne counties. The authority was created in January to replace the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority (SEMTA).

THE FEDERAL GRANT and the hopes for matching state funds will enable SMART to begin an expansion that must be built upon in the future, according to SMART chairman and deputy county executive Patrick Nowak.

With the grant announced Tuesday and an additional \$28.5 million that SMART officials hope to receive in federal grants over the next three

years, SMART will expand its fleet by 60 buses and replace existing buses, according to Martin.

"We don't think it's iffy," Martin said. "We think the commitment is there at both the Urban Mass Transportation Authority and the state. It's just a matter of doing the things we have to do."

When the total expansion is complete Oakland County residents will be added on 10 Mile, Hoover, Dequindre, 16 Mile and 19 Mile roads.

In Wayne County routes will be added to Beech-Daly, Ann Arbor, Northline, Farmington, Sheldon and Haggerty roads.

THE EXPANSION SMART will offer bus riders in southeast Michigan broader service than was avail-

able before 1983, when SEMTA cut its service by 50 percent, Martin said.

Matthew Wirgau, a deputy administrator with the Urban Mass Transportation Authority who attended the press conference, said that SMART's efforts to make its operations more efficient played an important role in the authority's decision to award the \$12 million grant. Originally, SMART had applied for a \$30 million grant that was not given serious consideration, he said.

He said plans to use smaller buses and vans on less traveled routes and to make use of private sector operators where possible will be part of the effort to streamline costs and helped motivate the federal authority to consider SMART for the grant.

"Private and public partnership in mass transportation is really the wave of the future," Wirgau said.

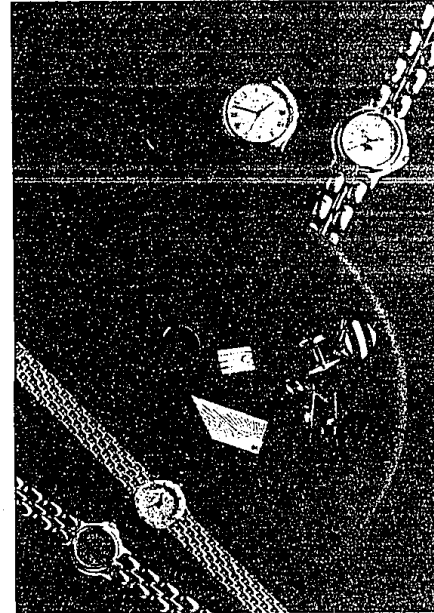
Walk for hungry nets \$25,000

Pledges totaling more than \$25,000 came in for the 268 walkers who participated in the eighth annual Lighthouse Walk for Hunger on May 6.

Michigan Gov. James Blanchard was honorary chairman of the walk.

Participants solicited pledges either as a one-time donation or on the basis of miles walked.

"Lighthouse supplied food to 22,431 clients in 1988," said director Norreen Keating. It is an Oakland County-based non-profit organization founded in 1972.



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Quayle honors 'bravest and best'

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has been hosting Police Memorial Day ceremonies for nine consecutive years, although this was the first time a national dignitary of Quayle's position has attended.

Honored this year were Lt. James Schmitt, Officer Frank Walls and Officer Charles Beasley — all members of the Detroit Police Department who died in the line of duty during the past year.

The widows, children and other relatives of the three Detroit officers were special guests at the ceremonies in Novi. Quayle's motorcade arrived in Novi at 4:35 p.m., and the vice president met individually with the families of the honored officers inside police headquarters before stepping outside to participate in ceremonies at 4:47 p.m.

Novi Mayor Matthew Quin and City Manager Edward Kriewall presented a special resolution to Quayle in honor of his appearance. Michigan Gov. James Blanchard, who arrived by helicopter at 4:15 p.m., made a presentation in which he extended

sympathy to the relatives of the slain officers and commended the Novi Police Department for sponsoring Police Memorial Day ceremonies.

"ENFORCING THE law and maintaining the peace is a tremendous responsibility," said Blanchard in brief remarks. "Without the courage and professionalism of these police officers we could not maintain our freedoms. They gave their lives so we can walk in peace."

Quayle was introduced by Oakland County Circuit Judge Gene Schell, who said the character of the vice president is revealed by his attendance at the ceremonies "to show that he cares."

In a seven-minute speech Quayle said that being a police officer today means being a hero. "It means fighting the criminals who prey on innocent victims," he said. "It means knowing that the next memorial service you attend might be your own."

Quayle said it was important to remember three things about the officers honored at Tuesday afternoon's ceremony.

He said they were front-line fighters for freedom, they were America's "bravest and best," and they had succeeded in living up to the ideal of doing something for others.

"WE MUST DO whatever it takes for as long as it takes," said Quayle of the war on crime. "Not all of us

are cut out to be heroes like these officers were, but all of us can take time to honor these heroes."

Referring to Bush's \$1.2 billion crime package, Quayle reiterated the president's commitment to take back the streets by taking the criminals off the streets.

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