

Mass transportation program highlights

[Dollar amounts in thousands]

	Cumulative to June 30, 1963	Actual, 1964	Actual, 1965	Actual, 1966 through Feb. 28, 1966	Estimate, 1966 total
Capital grant approvals:					
Number			17	8	40
Amount			\$50,702	¹ \$36,548	\$120,000
Demonstration grant approvals:					
Number	16	11	11	2	20
Amount	\$19,945	\$4,336	\$9,129	¹ \$1,047	\$10,000
Capital loan approvals:					
Number	1			1	3
Amount	\$3,000			\$3,100	\$10,000
Applications on hand, Feb. 28, 1966:					
For capital grants:					
Number				39	
Amount				\$104,602	
For demonstration grants:					
Number				13	
Amount				\$9,536	
For capital loans:					
Number				2	
Amount				\$6,605	

¹ Also includes increase in grant amounts for projects previously approved.

TITLE IV—GRANTS FOR URBAN INFORMATION CENTERS

The need

In recent years there has been a great expansion of Federal, State, and local programs dealing with urban problems. There are numerous complex facets of the many Federal programs, plus a host of related State, local, and private programs. These programs could be used to much better advantage if State and local governments, organizations, and individuals had more ready access to information regarding them.

Also, more readily available data is needed as to the nature and extent of urban problems, in order better to plan, budget, and coordinate these various assistance programs.

Much information is of course already available on urban areas and on governmental activities within them. However, because such information is widely scattered and in varied form, its availability and usefulness is often severely limited.

This problem is greatly compounded in metropolitan areas by the number of counties, cities, towns, villages, and special districts involved in the administration of services to the people of those areas. In the 212 metropolitan areas in 1960, there were almost 16,000 of these local public bodies. Centralized information is particularly vital to the coordination of their efforts.

Proposed demonstration grant program

Title IV of the bill would authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to establish a new program of Federal grant assistance to help meet these urban information needs. The grants would be made to States and metropolitan area agencies to help finance programs demonstrating methods of establishing and operating effective urban information centers. The centers would assemble, correlate, and disseminate information and data on the physical, social, and economic problems of urban areas, and on the governmental and other programs dealing with such problems.

The centers would not collect and analyze original raw data, for example, through census activities, surveys, or research projects. Rather, they would be depositories of information and data, originated by others but brought together at central points to be made more easily available to all.

What the program could accomplish

Only a few States and central cities, and even fewer suburban communities, have explored the potentials for making readily available in this way, a comprehensive picture of the community, its economic and demographic characteristics, the status of its housing, the costs of providing the myriad essential community services, and its various other needs and resources. The proposed