

of the San Diego situation. \* \* \* we have already, during our preliminary review of the City's application, disallowed about \$150,000 of the proposed project cost which was allocated to the purchase of eight charter-type buses.

"The final application of the City of San Diego is presently under active consideration by this Department. In particular, we have requested the City to furnish additional information as to the nature and extent of the proposed use, if any, of project facilities and equipment in charter service, so that we can further evaluate the application under the criteria above set forth. We have also requested similar information from Mr. Fredrick J. Ruane, who has filed a taxpayers' suit (Superior Court for San Diego County Civil #297329) against the City, contesting its authority to engage in charter bus operations."

As indicated above, it is clear that under the Act in question grants may not legally be made to purchase buses to be used "exclusively" in the operation of charter bus service. However, in view of the purposes of the Act involved it is our opinion that a city which has purchased with grant funds buses needed for an efficient mass transportation system, is not precluded by the act from using such buses for charter service during idle or off-peak periods when the buses are not needed for regularly scheduled runs. As indicated above, such a use would appear to be an incidental use.

The fourth question is answered accordingly.

As requested, the correspondence enclosed with your letter is returned herewith.

Sincerely yours,

FRANK H. WEITZEL,  
*Assistant Comptroller General  
of the United States.*

Enclosures:

The Honorable Bob Wilson, House of Representatives.

MARCH 29, 1976.

INFLATIONARY IMPACT STATEMENT  
FINAL REGULATIONS ON SCHOOL BUS  
OPERATIONS

I certify that, in accordance with Executive Order 11821, dated November 27, 1974, and Departmental implementing instructions, an Inflationary Impact Statement is not required for final regulations on School Bus Operations.

ROBERT E. PATRICELLI,  
*Federal Mass Transit  
Administrator.*

**PART 609—TRANSPORTATION FOR  
ELDERLY AND HANDICAPPED  
PERSONS**

Sec.

- 609.1 Purpose.
- 609.3 Definitions.
- 609.5 Applicability.
- 609.23 Reduced fare.

APPENDIX A TO PART 609—ELDERLY AND HANDICAPPED

AUTHORITY: 49 U.S.C. 5307(d) and 5308(b); 23 U.S.C. 134, 135 and 142; 29 U.S.C. 794; 49 CFR 1.51.

SOURCE: 41 FR 18239, Apr. 30, 1976, unless otherwise noted.

**§ 609.1 Purpose.**

The purpose of this part is to establish formally the requirements of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) on transportation for elderly and handicapped persons.

**§ 609.3 Definitions.**

As used herein:

*Elderly and handicapped persons* means those individuals who, by reason of illness, injury, age, congenital malfunction, or other permanent or temporary incapacity or disability, including those who are nonambulatory wheelchair-bound and those with semi-ambulatory capabilities, are unable without special facilities or special planning or design to utilize mass transportation facilities and services as effectively as persons who are not so affected.

**§ 609.5 Applicability.**

This part, which applies to projects approved by the Federal Transit Administrator on or after May 31, 1976, applies to all planning, capital, and operating assistance projects receiving Federal financial assistance under sections 5307 or 5308 of the Federal transit laws (49 U.S.C. Chapter 53), and non-highway public mass transportation projects receiving Federal financial assistance under: (1) Subsection (a) or (c) of section 142 of title 23, United States Code; and (2) paragraph (4) of subsection (e) of section 103, title 23, United States Code. However, under certain circumstances evident in