

'high-floor buses,'" he said.

The buses were designed to have a useful life of 12 years, but received an overhaul in 2002, according to Robin.

Even after the new buses arrive, the MBTA will still be left with 70 buses introduced in 1994 and 1995, he said.

The T's award was one of three grants that agencies in Massachusetts received from the Federal Transit Administration, officials said.

Springfield's Union Station received \$17.6 million toward the first phase of the station's development into an intermodal transportation and passenger center serving the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority and Peter Pan bus services, Amtrak, intercity rail, and planned commuter rail to Connecticut, state and federal transportation officials said.

The Pioneer Valley Transit Authority received a \$3.96 million grant toward the second phase of its plan to replace a century-old bus operations and maintenance facility in downtown Springfield.

Altogether, 255 federal transit grants totaling \$787 million were awarded nationwide, officials said.

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'The new buses will be state of the art with regards to all performance, accessibility, and emissions standards.'

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