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Planning for the improvement of public transit in Fresno, California was assisted today when Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe announced a \$357,593 grant to that city.

The grant will enable Fresno Transit of the city's Department of Transportation to purchase 19 new 53-passenger air-conditioned, radio equipped, diesel buses and to construct 12 new metal canopy bus shelters.

"This financial assistance to Fresno," Secretary Volpe said, "is typical of the Department of Transportation's effort to assist in improving public transportation facilities in urban areas across the nation."

"The increased patronage of Fresno Transit in the past two years is just one of many justifications for the high priority this Department has assigned to improving public transit as a means of untangling the knot of urban transportation," Volpe stated.

The new buses will replace 15 outmoded buses and will allow Fresno Transit to provide expanded, more efficient and comfortable service.

An additional advantage of the Fresno bus acquisition project is that expansion of Fresno Transit's service will permit rerouting to provide improved service from the community's low income areas to government centers and places of employment.

Also, proposed rerouting will provide interlinking of the areas airports, railroad stations and bus stations.

The Federal grant will be matched by a comparable local contribution which will be obtained through a lease-purchase agreement with the City of Fresno Equipment Corporation.

Project No. CAL-UTG-23

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