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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe today announced an addition of \$165,220 to a previous \$495,660 emergency grant to assist the City of Columbus, Georgia, in the purchase of 29 new buses and to modernize maintenance facilities.

"Small cities as well as large have transportation problems. Columbus had problems and we are glad we could help," Sec. Volpe said.

The grant was made by the Urban Mass Transportation Administration. Today's contribution represents one-sixth of the total project cost. Columbus qualified for the additional funds increasing the Federal share to two-thirds of the total project cost after having completed a regional transportation planning program stipulated in the original grant. "Columbus is well aware of the importance of an efficient, comfortable transit system. The new buses and maintenance facilities will benefit the entire community," Carlos C. Villarreal, the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administrator said. It is an established fact that modern well-maintained equipment increases ridership, increases business, reduces air pollution and automobile congestion in downtown areas, and generally improves economic conditions.

"Our much needed program for inspiring public transportation in the cities, and especially bus transit in smaller cities and towns, has the full support of our legislators and the general public," Villarreal added.

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