



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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The U. S. Department of Transportation today made a \$1.2 million grant to the Metropolitan Bus Authority of Puerto Rico to help the MBA purchase 50 new air-conditioned transit buses for San Juan.

The \$1,237,800 grant, made by the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), will pay for two-thirds of the \$1,856,700 MBA project. The remaining one-third payment of \$618,900 for the new buses will be provided by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe said the new 45-passenger diesel buses "certainly will help with the economic and desirable development of the San Juan Metropolitan Area."

"Without these new buses, a vital link in the Commonwealth's overall transportation system would be broken," Secretary Volpe said. Currently, MBA's fleet of 377 buses carry about 58 million passengers and cover more than 14 million route miles each year.

Administrator Carlos C. Villarreal of UMTA said the buses will be added to the MBA's present fleet, allowing MBA to improve and expand its service in the San Juan area. The Administrator pointed out that this is especially important in Puerto Rico, where the ownership of automobiles is substantially lower than in the States and residents are more dependent on public transportation.

Since 1965, the Government has provided about \$5 million in grants to the MBA for the purchase of 210 buses, construction of a bus garage and terminal and the purchase of other related transit equipment.

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