



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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The U. S. Department of Transportation today made a grant of over \$1 million to the Metropolitan Tulsa Transit Authority for the expansion and modernization of public bus service in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

The \$1,018,075 grant, made by the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), will pay for half of the city's three-year transit improvements, which will include the purchase of 45 new air-conditioned buses.

An additional UMTA grant of \$339,358 will be available to Tulsa after the city completes its regional transportation planning requirements, bringing Federal participation in the expansion project to \$1,357,433, or two-thirds of the total \$2 million project costs. Local contributions from Tulsa will cover the remaining one-third costs.

Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe said that today's grant "will help Tulsa increase its bus fleet from 45 transit coaches to 65 buses by 1974." All of Tulsa's current 45 buses are at least 10 years old and six of them date back to 1957, the Secretary said.

Administrator Carlos C. Villarreal of UMTA said the grant also will allow the city's Transit Authority to purchase the land and maintenance facilities it currently leases and to buy some surrounding property for future expansion. The grant also provides funds for 45 new bus fare boxes, construction of 30 bus stop shelters, repair and maintenance improvements and the purchase and installation of anti-pollution control devices on 20 older buses, Administrator Villarreal said.

As Tulsa gets its 45 new buses, the city plans to replace all but 20 of the older transit coaches, institute new crosstown bus service and expand bus service to Sand Springs, Broken Arrow and southeast Tulsa. A number of the older buses will be converted to school bus and charter service.

The City of Tulsa established the Transit Authority in 1968 after the private bus operator said that he could no longer furnish bus service to the area. The Transit Authority operates 18 regular bus routes and one express route, covering a total of 130 one-way miles.

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For further information, contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043, or Mr. John L. O'Brien, Chairman, Metropolitan Tulsa Transit Authority, 510 South Rockford, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74120.

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