



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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Phone: (202) 426-4043

Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe announced today a grant of \$401,000 to the City of Waco, Texas, to assist in the purchase of public transportation facilities to serve the Waco area.

The grant, made by the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration, will provide two-thirds of the cost of the project which totals \$601,000 and will permit the city to take over public transit service now being provided by a privately owned company. The company, Waco Transit, Inc., and its parent organization, American Transit, Inc., of St. Louis, several months ago notified the city of its desire to withdraw from the Waco area. Service has been maintained since that time under a subsidy provided by the city.

Patronage figures show that 30 percent of Waco Transit's riders are school children. The majority of the other patrons are persons who use the service to go to and from their jobs and who have no other means of transportation.

"Through grants such as this," said Secretary Volpe, "the Department of Transportation is carrying out its mission of maintaining and improving public transportation facilities throughout the country. It is a program which has been made possible by the Nixon Administration's Mass Transportation Assistance Act of 1970 and which will provide increasing benefits for the American public in the months and years ahead."

Acquisitions by the City of Waco, made possible by the Department grant, include 12 new air-conditioned diesel buses, eight used buses, and other properties essential to the operation of the service. Urban Mass Transportation Administrator Carlos C. Villarreal said the Waco program adds another city to the list now exceeding 60 in which the Department's programs have stabilized or preserved bus transit systems.

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For further information, contact UMTA Office of Public Affairs at 202-426-4043 or Mr. David F. Smith, Jr., City Manager, City of Waco, Texas.



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