



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# NEWS

## URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UMTA 72-35

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The Department of Transportation has approved a grant of \$404,004 to the City of Aurora, Illinois, Secretary John A. Volpe announced today.

The funds, provided through the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), will help the City of Aurora to purchase 11 new buses and fareboxes, build a new garage facility and buy new maintenance and administrative equipment, Secretary Volpe said.

"The new buses and garage facility will enable the city to improve the existing level of transit service," the Secretary said. While the Federal government will provide two-thirds of the \$606,006 project cost, the State of Illinois will provide the remaining one-third.

Aurora is located 40 miles southwest of Chicago and some of its 75,000 residents commute daily to Chicago. Aurora started providing public bus service in January, 1971, with 15 buses--five of them now more than 20 years old.

Urban Mass Transportation Administrator Carlos C. Villarreal said, "Ridership has been increasing in Aurora. Ridership is expected to increase further with the addition of new routes, and the new buses will offer a better service."

The grant is part of the Urban Mass Transportation Assistance Act of 1970. "President Nixon and Secretary Volpe have called on us to

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write a mass transportation success story for the 1970's, and improved services in cities like Aurora will help us meet that challenge," Villarreal said.

With the additional buses, Aurora expects to be able to add shuttle and feeder service connecting main transit routes with commercial and residential areas being developed in the area.

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For further information, contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs (202) 426-4043, or Mayor Albert D. McCoy, City of Aurora, Aurora, Illinois 60504. (ILL-UTG-21)

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