



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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The Department of Transportation has approved two grants of \$453,075 and \$63,520 to Salt Lake City and the Wasatch Front Regional Council, respectively, Secretary John A. Volpe announced today.

The funds, made available by the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), are for the purchase of 17 new buses and related equipment by the Utah Transit Authority, and for development of a short-range transit improvement program for the Wasatch Front area, the Secretary said.

"These new buses and support equipment will permit the Authority to continue its efforts in implementing its ten-year transit improvement program initiated last year," Secretary Volpe said.

The Secretary added: "President Nixon has called upon us to write a mass transit success story for the 1970's, and the people of the Salt Lake City area will receive a higher quality of service through this grant, helping us meet the President's goal."

Two-thirds of the cost of the 17 new 45-passenger air-conditioned transit coaches, a supervisory automobile, general service truck and two-way radios will come from the capital grants program of the Urban Mass Transportation Assistance Act of 1970, with the Utah Transit Authority providing the remainder.

UMTA Administrator Carlos C. Villarreal pointed out "the buses to be replaced average over 16 years of age. The new buses and equipment will aid the UTA in lowering its operating and maintenance costs."

The grant to the Wasatch Front Regional Council also provides two-thirds of the funding of the study in five counties surrounding Salt Lake City.

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"Data from this study will be used to supplement information for the ten-year transit improvement program. In conjunction with the capital expenditures, it is the aim of the UTA and WFRC to bring coordinated and improved transit service, under one transit authority, to the area," Administrator Villarreal said.

Information gathered from the technical study will be used to support a referendum at the November general election to increase the jurisdiction of the Utah Transit Authority.

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For further information, contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs (202) 426-4043.

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