



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

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Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe today announced the award of \$4,951,482 to the Maryland Mass Transit Administration (M. T. A.) in connection with the purchase of the privately owned Baltimore Transit Company.

"A previous grant of \$14,854,450, awarded in early 1970, made public ownership of the company possible," Secretary Volpe said, "and averted a near-certain transportation crisis in Baltimore."

Service in the city has greatly improved under public ownership since the initial grant. Ridership has ceased to decline and instead has increased two percent in the last two years. The 370 new buses allowed under the initial grant have been put into operation, reducing the average age of buses in use from 15 years to six years. Other equipment and features also were included in the purchase.

"This has been accomplished," the Secretary added, "at no increase in fares. Moreover, the recent introduction of a reduced fare for Senior Citizens should further increase ridership and provide the mobility we are seeking for all Americans."

Today's approval recognizes completion of the planning and programming requirements prescribed by the Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964 as a prerequisite to two-thirds Federal funding.

The grant to the Maryland Mass Transit Administration was made by the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration. "Baltimore is a prime example," UMTA Administrator Carlos C. Villarreal said, "of President Nixon's \$3.1 billion, five-year program of assistance to preserve and improve the nation's public transportation services."

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For further information, contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043. (MD-UTG-1)

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