



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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The Department of Transportation has approved a grant of \$3,565,014 to the City of Omaha, Nebraska, Secretary John A. Volpe announced today.

The funds, provided by the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), will enable the City of Omaha to preserve transit services in both Omaha and Council Bluffs, Iowa, Secretary Volpe pointed out.

"Both Omaha Transit Co. and City Transit Lines, which operates in Council Bluffs have indicated their intention to cease providing transit service," Secretary Volpe said, "and through President Nixon's Urban Mass Transportation Assistance Act of 1970, the Federal government is able to help avert a crisis."

UMTA Administrator Carlos C. Villarreal said the funds will be used to aid the city in the purchase of the assets of Omaha Transit, and selected assets of City Transit. "The grant will also provide two-thirds of the cost of purchasing 30 new air-conditioned diesel buses, low-pollution fuel injectors, bus stop signs, service vehicles, and a two-way radio system for 87 buses," Administrator Villarreal said.

The Administrator pointed out the project will have additional benefits for the two communities. "With new bus stop markers passengers will be better able to identify routes and stops. Also management will have better control over operations through improved communications to buses out on the streets. And, these cleaner buses will help lower air pollution in both cities," Mr. Villarreal said.

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The 30 new buses will replace vehicles that are more than 20 years old. "New equipment will not only result in reduced maintenance expense but will also allow the City to provide more dependable service," the Administrator said.

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For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs (202) 426-4043, or James Reed, Transportation Coordinator, Interim City Hall, 18th and Dodge Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68102. (NEB-UTG-2)

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