



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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Phone: (202) 426-4043

The Department of Transportation has approved a grant of \$2,184,000 to the Metropolitan Dade County Transit Authority (M.T.A.), Secretary John A. Volpe announced today.

The funds, made available through the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration, will provide two-thirds of the cost of purchasing 74 new air-conditioned, 53-passenger diesel transit buses. The Florida State Department of Transportation will provide one-sixth and M.T.A. will contribute the other \$546,000.

"These additional buses will enable the M.T.A. to provide the entire riding public of Dade County with complete air-conditioned service which is a necessity in the area's sub-tropical climate. In no way can air-conditioned service be considered a luxury in the south Florida area," Secretary Volpe said.

With Federal and State assistance, the M.T.A. purchased 100 new air-conditioned buses last year, and had bought 150 with its own funds previously. "All of the new buses are equipped with the latest environmental and safety equipment available," the Secretary noted.

Urban Mass Transportation Administrator Carlos C. Villarreal pointed out the contribution the new buses would make to cleaner air in the Miami area. "Each of these buses emits less pollutants than 30 cars. In his environmental message, President Nixon called for all Federal agencies to contribute to cleaning up our Nation's air. I am delighted

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that we are able to participate in achieving this goal in the Miami area."

The Administrator also noted that the new buses are part of a long-range plan by M. T. A. to "provide the riding public of Dade County with the best available modern, efficient equipment on a continuing basis."

The additional buses in the fleet will enable M. T. A. to more efficiently schedule its equipment and will permit an optimum utilization of all equipment in the fleet.

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For further information, contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs, (202) 426-4043, or the Metropolitan Dade County Transit Authority, 3300 Northwest 32nd Avenue, (P. O. Box 887), Miami, Florida 33152. (FLA-UTG-17)

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