



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR RELEASE THURSDAY
June 8, 1972

UMTA 72-48
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The Department of Transportation has approved a grant of \$1,753,706 to the City of Shreveport to avoid a public transit crisis, Secretary John A. Volpe announced today.

The funds, provided by the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), will aid the city in purchasing the assets of Shreveport Transit Company, which has indicated its intention to cease providing transit service in the area, Secretary Volpe said.

"President Nixon's urban mass transportation assistance program is making it possible for us to help the City of Shreveport preserve an essential public service," Secretary Volpe stated. "We not only will be helping to avert a transit crisis, but we will be aiding the city in improving the service."

UMTA Administrator Carlos C. Villarreal pointed out that much of the present bus fleet in Shreveport is obsolete. "This grant will enable Shreveport to purchase 32 new 45-passenger, air-conditioned buses, replacing two-thirds of the present fleet," he said. In addition, the grant will provide for purchase of a fare collection system, 12 bus shelters, route markers, bus stop signs, and construction of transit improvements at the Shreveport Courthouse.

"The improvements at the courthouse include shelters, benches, and route displays. This will protect passengers during adverse weather, and will aid them in utilizing the improved service," Administrator Villarreal added.

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For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs (202) 426-4043, or William A. Collins, Commissioner of Public Utilities, City of Shreveport, P. O. Box 65, Shreveport, Louisiana. (LA-UTG-10)

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