



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

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Phone: (202) 426-4043

The U.S. Department of Transportation today made a \$552,400 grant to Decatur, Illinois to help save public transit service in that City.

The grant, to be administered by the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), will provide two-thirds of the funds required to complete the \$828,600 project. Local funds will pay for the remaining one-third costs.

As part of the project, Decatur City Lines will be acquired by the City and 12 new 45-passenger buses equipped with Environmental Improvement Packages for pollution control will be purchased. In addition, a small parcel of land is to be purchased and improved for use as a parking area.

Included in the grant are funds to renovate the existing maintenance garage and to build three bus shelters in the downtown area near the shopping mall to add to the comfort and convenience of bus patrons, according to Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe.

"This project," said Secretary Volpe, "complies with the objectives of President Nixon's program for maintaining and improving public transit and at the same time reducing pollution."

Until certain planning requirements have been completed, only fifty-percent of the project funds are being made available now, Secretary Volpe said. The City will have a three-year period in which it can correct the planning deficiencies and receive the additional Federal funds to bring Decatur up to a two-thirds Federal, one-third local share basis.

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Local funding will come from a State of Illinois Department of Transportation grant for \$276,200 and the City's bond levy issued for public transportation purposes.

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For further information, contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043. (ILL-UTG-27)

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