



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# NEWS

## URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION WASHINGTON, D. C. 20590

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The Department of Transportation has approved a grant of \$115,200 to the City of Billings, Montana, Secretary John A. Volpe announced today.

"Today's grant to Billings marks the first Federal funding for a mass transit project in the State of Montana," Secretary Volpe said. "This is a good example of President Nixon's efforts to help small towns as well as large cities with their public transportation problems."

The funds, made available through the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), will provide two-thirds of the amount necessary for the city to purchase the faltering privately-owned bus company, Bus Lines of Billings. In addition, the city will purchase five new air-conditioned, environmentally-clean buses.

Urban Mass Transportation Administrator Carlos C. Villarreal said the city of Billings, through its Transit Commission, "intends to provide a level of bus service adequate to meet the needs of the community." New bus routes and schedules have been planned for the city, based on recommendations of a recently completed transit needs study for the Billings area, Administrator Villarreal said.

"Today's UMTA grant will provide two-thirds of the funds required to complete the \$172,800 Billings project," the Administrator stated. Local one-third funding from a one mill tax levy will provide the remaining one-third. "We are pleased to cooperate with the people of Billings, who have themselves made a commitment to maintaining quality public transportation services," Villarreal added.

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For further information, contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs (202) 426-4043, or Mayor Willard E. Fraser, Billings, Montana 59103. (MONT-UTG-1)

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