



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe today announced a \$3.2 million grant by the U.S. Department of Transportation for systems engineering and the design of Atlanta's proposed rapid transit system.

The grant, made by the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), will go to the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC), which will pass the funds on to the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA).

"This arrangement is the result of mutual State and local agency agreements which require all transit planning funds to be channeled through the Atlanta Regional Commission," Secretary Volpe said. "Local one-third matching funds of \$1.6 million will be provided by MARTA, bringing the total project costs to \$4.8 million."

MARTA will be responsible for the actual project which consists primarily of a series of engineering activities to further define the recommended Atlanta rapid transit system. Specific project tasks covered by today's grant will include preliminary design and engineering of some typical aerial structures and of some selected transit stations in the system. Other project activities will relate to car design, soil investigation, surveying and mapping.

Secretary Volpe said "this grant is significant in maintaining the schedule of activities necessary to meet the anticipated start of rapid transit service in Atlanta by 1977. This is part of President Nixon's over-all program to help upgrade and finance new transit systems across the Nation," the Secretary said.

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In announcing the grant, Secretary Volpe said "these funds represent the Federal Government's commitment to assist Atlanta in implementing its rapid transit system.

"In approving this grant, the Department of Transportation is maintaining the strong momentum generated in Atlanta in support of rapid transit. We do so because of extensive past planning efforts which have set the stage for system implementation and because of a strong local commitment in the form of a very successful sales tax referendum which provides a sound financial base for public transportation," Secretary Volpe said.

Today's grant is a follow-up to previously-funded UMTA technical studies in the Atlanta area, according to UMTA Administrator Carlos C. Villarreal. Administrator Villarreal said this grant brings to a total of nearly \$34 million the funds advanced by the Department of Transportation for improvement of all public transportation facilities in the Atlanta metropolitan area.

"These Federal funds will allow Atlanta to be prepared by the spring of 1973 to make their anticipated requests to us for funds to actually start construction," Administrator Villarreal said.

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For further information, contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043, or the Atlanta Regional Commission, 100 Peachtree Street, Suite 910, Atlanta, Georgia 30303. (UMTA Project No. GA-09-0012.)

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