



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20590

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UMTA-72-74
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The U.S. Department of Transportation today made a \$2.5 million grant to the Broward County (Florida) Transportation Authority to buy 81 new air-conditioned buses and to help improve mass transit service in the Fort Lauderdale area by taking over a privately-owned bus company.

The \$2,554,533 grant, made by the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), will pay two-thirds of the Authority's cost of buying the 81 new buses, along with purchasing assets of the privately-owned Beach Transit Corporation. In addition, the Authority plans to use part of the Federal grant to build a new maintenance facility, buy 124 two-way radios for its newly-acquired bus system and purchase related transit service equipment, including 40 bus stop shelters.

Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe said "this grant to the Broward County Transportation Authority is part of President Nixon's program to modernize and expand mass transit systems across the Nation, especially in areas where elderly and handicapped persons depend on public transit as their only means of mobility."

Administrator Carlos C. Villarreal of UMTA said that "other Broward County residents will soon have a choice between using their automobiles or first-class bus service for urban trips. Commuters will find that public transit will be an attractive alternative," Administrator Villarreal said.

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Broward County presently is served by two major bus operations --Beach Transit in Fort Lauderdale and the South Broward Transit Authority in Hollywood. Beach Transit currently has 33 buses, of which 20 are to be sold as soon as the 81 new buses arrive sometime next year. South Broward Transit, a public authority, will merge with the Broward County Transit Authority on January 1, 1973, bringing all major public bus service in the county under centralized public control.

Today's \$2.5 million UMTA grant will be matched with \$638,634 from both the Florida State Department of Transportation and other local agencies, bringing the total project cost to \$3,831,800, of which \$2.3 million will be spent for the 81 new buses.

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For further information, contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043, or the Broward County Transportation Authority, Fort Lauderdale, Florida. (UMTA Project No. FL-03-0015.)

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