



## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# NEWS

### URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20590

FOR RELEASE FRIDAY  
September 29, 1972

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Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe today announced a \$984,800 grant to the Maryland Department of Transportation to help finance the mass transit portion of Baltimore's multi-modal Unified Transportation Planning Program.

The technical studies grant, made by the U. S. Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), will be matched with \$492,400 in local funds, making a total of \$1,477,200 available to the Baltimore area for this fiscal year's mass transit planning.

"Today's grant is the fifth made by UMTA for the continuation of a regional transportation planning process initiated here in 1962," Secretary Volpe said during a news conference at Friendship Airport. The Maryland DOT will be assisted in administering the grant by the Regional Planning Council of Baltimore, the City of Annapolis, and by other local government agencies.

"Two special studies will be included in this technical study," Secretary Volpe said. "The first will provide for continuing development of Baltimore's regional rapid transit system beyond its two-leg, Phase One system."

The 28-mile Phase One system, which will extend from Owings Mills, 14 miles northwest of Baltimore, to and from Marley, 14 miles to the south of the city, is nearing the final stage of engineering. The 28-mile rail transit line also will link downtown Baltimore with Friendship Airport, Secretary Volpe said.

"Today's Federal grant will help identify the second and future phases of the system after analyzing environmental, social, economic and urban growth factors," the Secretary said.

The second major work to be covered by today's grant will provide a transportation plan for the Annapolis area, Secretary Volpe said.

"The Annapolis plan will help provide mass transit for that city's residents and visitors, keeping in mind the need to maintain the city's historical and environmental qualities," the Secretary said. "Providing improved mobility is part of President Nixon's nationwide program, but maintaining our historical landmarks and environmental quality is certainly foremost in all of his programs."

Within the first six months of the Annapolis study, an immediate action transit program will be produced and quickly implemented, according to UMTA Administrator Carlos C. Villarreal.

"And in Baltimore, we are well along the way in assisting with planning for the city's new rail rapid transit system," Administrator Villarreal said. Actual construction work is scheduled to start during the summer of 1973, with an operational target date of September 1978 for the northwest and southern lines.

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For further information, contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043, or Fran Fiekin, Maryland Mass Transportation Administration, (301) 539-6281, EXT. 232. (UMTA Project No. MD-09-0007)

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