



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# NEWS

## URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20590

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The U. S. Department of Transportation today made a grant of more than \$1.6 million to help the Winston-Salem (N. C.) Transit Authority acquire a faltering local bus company, purchase 35 new buses and construct a new bus maintenance and office facility.

The \$1,608,513 grant, made by the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), will cover two-thirds of the \$2.4 million project cost. The \$804,257 local share will be financed by a local bond issue, which recently won overwhelming public support at the polls, according to Secretary of Transportation, John A. Volpe.

"The grant will primarily cover the Transit Authority's acquisition of the financially-troubled Safe Bus Company, replacement of its outdated rolling stock, and construction of a new combination maintenance and office facility", Secretary Volpe said.

Bus transportation in the Winston-Salem area was provided by two private carriers until 1968, when the second carrier, City Coach Lines, discontinued service following a protracted work stoppage. The Safe Bus Company was requested by the Transit Authority to expand its route coverage into the unprofitable service areas abandoned by City Coach Lines.

"Since then, the total system patronage and revenues have declined to the point where a public takeover is the only way to save mass transit service in Winston-Salem," Secretary Volpe said.

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Administrator Carlos C. Villarreal of UMTA said the 35 new buses will "substantially improve the quality of public transit service for many commuters in Winston-Salem who depend upon the bus system for mobility."

"This grant is another example of how President Nixon's Urban Mass Transportation Assistance Act of 1970 is working to save and upgrade public transit in every American city, regardless of size," Administrator Villarreal said.

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For further information, contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202)426-4043, or the Winston-Salem Transit Authority, City Hall, Winston-Salem, North Carolina. (UMTA Project No. NC-03-0002.)

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