



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# NEWS

## URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20590

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UMTA 72-91  
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Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe today announced a grant of nearly \$33 million to the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority to help the MBTA purchase more than 150 new streetcars for use on Boston's Green Line transit system.

The \$32,800,000 grant, made by the Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), will pay for two-thirds of the \$49.2 million vehicle acquisition project. Local MBTA bonds will provide another \$16.4 million as the local one-third share. The combined funds will help pay for 150-175 new light-rail, articulated streetcars and a related parts inventory, Secretary Volpe said.

Today's Federal grant complements an UMTA grant of \$25.5 million made last February to help the MBTA upgrade tracks, signals, power stations, and maintenance facilities of the Green Line.

Secretary Volpe said that both grants to the MBTA "were made under President Richard Nixon's Urban Mass Transportation Assistance Act of 1970 which is providing \$3.1 billion over a five-year period to upgrade public transit systems throughout the Nation."

The Secretary said that today's Federal grant "will increase streetcar timetable reliability, capacity, passenger comfort and convenience and provide greater safety and security, in addition to decreasing running time on the Green Line for more than 165,000 daily commuters."

The MBTA will replace its current fleet of worn-out streetcars with new, modern vehicles which will operate at higher speeds, accelerate and brake more smoothly, produce less noise, hold more passengers, and permit commuters to get on and off easier, Secretary Volpe said. In addition, the new cars will incorporate special interior and exterior features designed to assist elderly and handicapped riders.

The Green Line streetcar system runs between the western and southwestern inner suburban areas of Boston and the downtown Central Subway area. MBTA's subway, the oldest system in North America, serves the central business district of Boston and connects directly with the Authority's other three rapid transit lines. From the Central Subway, the Green Line extends north across the Charles River to Lechmere Square in Cambridge.

Administrator Carlos C. Villarreal of UMTA said that "many Green Line riders have the unique advantage of being able to ride one streetcar directly between their homes and their offices without having to transfer."

Administrator Villarreal said that, because of MBTA's past lack of financial resources, "service on the Green Line has not been up to what we and the MBTA would like to provide." The main operational improvement will be that the Green Line will better serve the public by running streetcars on a reliable schedule, Mr. Villarreal added.

In January of this year, UMTA made two other grants to the MBTA. The first, for \$568,940, is helping the MBTA buy much-needed transit service equipment, including 10 service trucks, 11 snow plows, 10 administrative vehicles and 17 pieces of shop equipment. The second grant, for \$320,000, was for track relocation and construction work.

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For further information, contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043, or Mr. Joseph C. Kelly, General Manager, MBTA, 500 Arborway, Boston, Massachusetts 02130. (UMTA Project No. MA-03-0022.) (February 1972, \$25.4 million grant was UMTA Project No. MASS-UTG-15. January 1972, grants of \$568,940 and \$320,000 were Project Numbers MASS-UTG-21 and MASS-UTG-7 respectively.)