



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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The U.S. Department of Transportation today made a \$22.5 million grant to the Maryland Department of Transportation to help start construction of Baltimore's new rail rapid transit system.

The grant, made by the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), "also will aid in final engineering, design and land acquisition for a section of Phase One of the Baltimore Region Rapid Transit System," according to Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe. The entire 28-mile, 20-station Phase One double-track project is expected to be completed by 1980 at a cost of about \$656 million, Secretary Volpe said.

"Today's Federal grant will pay for two-thirds of what it will cost to build 10 stations and lay 8.5 miles of rail track between the Baltimore City line and a point downtown near Baltimore and Gay Streets, just east of a proposed Charles Center Station," the Secretary said. Local one-third funding will be provided by the Maryland Department of Transportation.

"Also included in today's grant are funds to bring the rail line out of the Charles Center Station to the Vicinity of Light and Barre Streets, just south of the proposed Inner Harbor Station."

The first section is known as the Northwest Line; the second the South Line. The Maryland Department of Transportation is expected to apply for additional UMTA funding totaling \$437 million for the mass transit lines as the regional system proceeds, according to UMTA Administrator Carlos C. Villarreal.

"Final engineering and design on the Phase One system will begin early in 1973, with major construction expected to start in early 1974," Administrator Villarreal said.

"Federal funding of this new transit system," said Mr. Villarreal, "is a demonstration of the Nixon Administration's determination to push with all possible speed its program for relief of urban congestion. This system will cut in half the commuting time of many persons working in the center city area, reduce automobile traffic, help control pollution and open up the downtown area of Baltimore for more convenient and efficient use by the city's citizens.

"Secretary Volpe and I have responded to President Nixon's directives by giving high priority to the Federal public transportation program," Mr. Villarreal said, "Baltimore is just one of the many cities which have received urgently needed assistance in meeting their transportation problems through programs established by the Department of Transportation."

These programs, he noted, were made possible through financing procedures established under President Nixon's Urban Mass Transportation Assistance Act of 1970, which is now providing about \$1 billion a year to help save and upgrade the Nation's urban mass transit systems.

Three million dollars already has been provided to Baltimore by the U.S. Department of Transportation for preliminary studies and technical work connected with the new rail transit system. A \$20 million UMTA grant approved by Secretary Volpe in 1970 provided two-thirds of the cost of acquiring the city's faltering privately-owned bus company and buying 370 new buses.

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For further information, contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043, or the Maryland Department of Transportation, P. O. Box 8755, Friendship International Airport, Baltimore, Maryland 21240. (UMTA Project No. MD-03-0004)

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