



**DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION**

NEWS

**URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION
ADMINISTRATION**

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR RELEASE WEDNESDAY
April 24, 1974

UMTA 58-74
Phone: (202) 426-4043

The Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) today awarded a grant of \$1,046,800 to the Mississippi Coast Transportation Authority of Gulfport, Mississippi.

The grant will allow the reestablishment of bus service in the counties of Hancock, Harrison, Jackson and Pearl River, and provides for the purchase of 22 new 45-passenger buses and 6 new 23-passenger buses. It also will assist in the construction and furnishing of a maintenance facility and will provide for the purchase of bus shelters, fareboxes, and other related equipment.

The four Gulf Coast counties have been without public transit service since 1971 when the privately owned

Municipal Transit Lines, Inc. ceased operations. The company had suffered severe economic setbacks in the aftermath of hurricane Camille in 1969 and had managed to continue operating until 1971 only by means of local public subsidies.

The present reestablishment of bus service was recommended in an UMTA funded technical study.

The local one-fifth share of the project cost is being provided by participating members of the Mississippi Coast Transportation Authority.

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For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs, (202) 426-4043 or Colonel Thomas E. Morris, Executive Director, Mississippi Coast Transportation Authority, Suite 808-809 Security Savings Building, Gulfport, Mississippi. (UMTA Project No. MS-03-0003).

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