



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

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UMTA 87-74
Phone: (202) 426-4043

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) today announced a grant of \$4,342,528 to the Miami Valley Regional Transit Authority (MVRTA) of Dayton, Ohio, for major capital improvements to Dayton's unique trolley bus transit system. The grant will provide for the purchase of 64 new 51-passenger electric trolley buses, 10 new 45-passenger diesel buses, office equipment, fareboxes, bus shelters, and other related equipment. Also included is the relocation, underground, of trolley feeder cables in downtown Oakwood, Ohio. Local support for the improvement program has been consistently demonstrated in public hearings and by the overwhelming approval of a transit-support property tax which will provide the major portion of the one-fifth local share of the

improvement costs.

Until public takeover in 1973, mass transit in the Dayton area had been suffering from a continued steep drop in ridership and consequent reductions in service and increases in fares. Since the takeover, due to MVRTA's innovative marketing and service improvement efforts, ridership is on the upswing and local enthusiasm for mass transit has reappeared.

A few of the oldest trolley buses will be replaced but most of the new vehicles will be used to expand and improve service. MVRTA is investigating the possibility of buying vehicles which could eventually be retrofitted for off-line operations when the necessary technology becomes available. Underground relocation of the trolley feeder cables in Oakwood has become necessary due to highway widening and reconstruction.

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For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043 or Mr. Robert B. Shaffer, Resident Manager, MVRTA, Dayco Building, 333 W. First Street, Dayton, Ohio 45402 (513) 226-1333. (UMTA Project No. OH-03-0026)

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