



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

NEWS

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U.S. Secretary of Transportation Claude S. Brinegar today announced two grants totalling \$59,954,924 to the Maryland Department of Transportation for major transit projects in Baltimore.

The grants provide \$50,160,000 for design and construction of 2.6 miles of the city's subway system and \$9,794,924 for the purchase of 205 buses and other related equipment. Both grants were made by the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA).

In making the announcement, Secretary Brinegar said, "when its 28-mile Phase I subway system carries its first passengers in 1981, Baltimore will proudly take its place among the few American cities offering its residents coordinated bus/rail rapid transit." UMTA Administrator Frank C. Herringer noted that the system, when completed, will have 20 stations throughout the metropolitan area and is expected to cost \$1.1 billion. Administrator Herringer also pointed out that important new commercial and government centers have been planned

for the downtown area in anticipation of the comprehensive service to be offered by the new coordinated transit network.

The new buses will replace 155 worn out vehicles presently in service and will allow an increase of revenue miles by more than 1 1/4 million annually. The grant also provides for the purchase of 5,000 bus stop signs and 10 support vehicles to replace equipment no longer serviceable.

The Mass Transit Administration (MTA) of the Maryland DOT has been the principal transit carrier in the area ever since its UMTA-assisted take-over of the former private operator in 1970. Since that time, a steep down-trend in ridership has been reversed and the system continues to attract new patrons. MTA is presently supervising subway construction and will operate both systems when completed.

The local one-fifth share of the project will be provided by the State of Maryland.

For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043 or Mr. Harry R. Hughes, Secretary, Maryland Department of Transportation, Baltimore/Washington International Airport, Baltimore, Maryland 21240, (301) 539-6281. (UMTA Project Nos. MD-03-0004-01 and MD-03-0008)