



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR RELEASE WEDNESDAY
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UMTA 75-14
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The U.S. Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) today announced a grant of \$6,051,888 to the Peninsula Transportation District Commission (PTDC) of Hampton, Virginia. The grant provides for the public acquisition of the present privately-owned bus system and the purchase of badly needed capital equipment.

As part of a long-overdue upgrading of fleet and service, all but 26 of the present 99 buses will be replaced with new equipment and the overall fleet size will be increased by 15. Six of the new buses will be medium size coaches to be used on special shuttle routes and to provide demand-responsive service for elderly and handicapped riders. Support equipment to be purchased includes 7 service vehicles, shop equipment, 40 bus shelters and 600 bus stop signs. The entire fleet will be equipped with two way radios to improve the safety and reliability of service.

The private carrier, which has shown a trend towards increased costs and decreased profits, has approached the break-even point and is ready to be taken over. It is currently the only mass transit system in the Hampton-Newport News area and service is expected to improve appreciably with the present infusion of public funds.

The local one-fifth share of the total project cost will be provided by the Cities of Hampton and Newport News and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

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For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043 or Mr. Orman Hicks, Executive Director, PTDC, 3400 Victoria Blvd, Hampton, Virginia 23661, (804) 722-2825. (VA-03-0009)

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