



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR RELEASE THURSDAY
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UMTA 75-22
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The U.S. Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration today announced a \$1,632,480 grant to the Greater Roanoke Transit Company of Roanoke, Virginia.

The grant is designed to assist the Greater Roanoke Transit Company acquire the privately owned Roanoke City Lines, Incorporated, and to replace 22 vehicles averaging over 16 years of age.

Since 1972 the city has subsidized service in order to preserve public transportation in the Roanoke area. Because of high maintenance costs of the antiquated equipment and a declining ridership, the city formed the Greater Roanoke Transit Company to acquire and operate the city's public transit system.

In addition to acquiring the private system, the project includes the purchase of 22 new 45-passenger buses and refurbishing of 26 used buses.

The grant is expected to have a substantial effect on the quality of transit service in Roanoke. With the increased passenger comfort and reliability of the new and refurbished buses, a substantial increase in ridership is expected.

The Commonwealth of Virginia and city of Roanoke are providing the local one-fifth share of the total project cost.

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For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043 or Mr. Bill Cuthy, City of Roanoke, 215 Church Avenue, S.W., Roanoke, Virginia 24011, (703) 981-2345. (UMTA Project No. VA-03-0004)

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