



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR RELEASE SATURDAY
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UMTA 75-29
Phone: (202) 426-4043

U.S. Secretary of Transportation, William T. Coleman, Jr., today announced a \$3,950,508 grant to the Gary Public Transportation Corporation, Gary, Indiana, to help maintain and improve public transportation in the Gary urban area.

The Federal grant includes funds for acquisition of the physical assets of the privately-owned Gary Transit, Inc., Gary Intercity Lines, Inc., and Gary Railways, Inc. The purchase of 40 new buses and related transit equipment, the complete refurbishment of 40 other buses, construction of a new modular passenger terminal and renovation of a garage building and grounds also are included in the planned improvements.

Secretary Coleman said, "I am encouraged by the actions being taken in cities throughout the Country to improve the mobility of our citizens and to conserve the nation's energy." The Secretary added, "Transit ridership increased almost six percent in 1974 over 1973 -- the turning point in declining transit ridership in America."

The grant was made by the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA). Administrator Frank C. Herringer noted that Gary Transit informed the city in 1970 that it intended to cease providing transit service in 1971. In order to maintain service the city has subsidized the private company's operation since that time.

The new buses are being equipped with non-skid flooring, step-well lighting and stanchions to improve access for the elderly and handicapped. The new passenger terminal provides for a comfortable waiting station for all patrons. The improved access and facilities, other planned

- 2 -

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improvements and increased services are expected to attract new passengers and to reverse the declining passenger trend in Gary.

The Gary Public Transportation Corporation is 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. James Holcomb, Gary Public Transportation Corporation, c/o School Service Center, 620 E. 10th Place, Gary, Indiana 46407, (219) 769-3561. (UMTA Project No. IN-03-0021)

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