



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20590

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UMTA 76-37

A solar heating unit will be incorporated into the construction of Denver's new Platte Division combined transit garage, maintenance and office facility as a result of a \$914,116 Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) grant. The grant was announced today in Denver by Robert E. Patricelli, UMTA Administrator, during a meeting with Regional Transit District (RTD) officials.

Administrator Patricelli said, "The solar heating unit is the first to be installed at any transit property under the UMTA program. The Denver RTD's installation of the solar collectors for heating promises significant savings in energy costs."

The grant to the RTD supplements UMTA grants totaling \$18,348,604 made last year for major transit improvements, including construction of the new Platte garage facility, purchase of new buses and acquisition of four local bus systems to consolidate transit service in the Denver region.

Reports indicate the use of solar energy in heating is especially practical for the Denver area because of its high percentage of winter sunshine and other factors which contribute to a high level of solar radiation. Twenty-seven states have been selected by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as suitable sites for the practical application of solar heating and will receive \$1 million in grants for the installation of solar heating in 143 dwelling units. Colorado ranks among the top three states for the practical use of solar energy, according to an RTD-sponsored study prepared by Dr. Jan F. Kreider, P.E., of the University of Colorado.

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A local source for additional information on this project is Mr. John O. Simpson, General Manager, Regional Transportation District, 1325 South Colorado Boulevard, Denver, Colo. 80222, (303) 759-1000. (UMTA Project No. CO-03-0007-02)

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