



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# NEWS

## URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

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UMTA 76-107

A \$1,418,784 grant to Columbus, Ohio's Central Ohio Transit Authority to assist in the purchase of an existing operating facility and a 22-acre site on which a second facility needed for heavy maintenance and operations will be built was announced today by Robert E. Patricelli, Administrator of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA).

Patricelli said, "These new facilities will help provide better service to Columbus's transit riders by improving the reliability and performance of their local bus fleet. These improvements also will greatly improve the working conditions of the Authority's employees. I am pleased that Federal help is available to assist the community in achieving these much needed transit improvements."

The Central Ohio Transit Authority, operator of the Columbus system, provides service on 29 routes six days a week with a fleet of 275 buses to more than 14 million residents in Columbus and Franklin County.

Current operations and maintenance are being performed from three leased facilities, all but one of which are unsuitable or not available as permanent facilities. An extensive analysis of alternative locations for the permanent facilities resulted in the selection of the 22-acre site on McKinley Avenue and a leased facility on

Cleveland Avenue.

The Cleveland Avenue property consisting of 7.2 acres will be used as an operating facility for 100 buses with a growth capacity to 200 buses while a new heavy maintenance/operating facility for up to 240 buses will be built on the McKinley Avenue site.

The grant includes engineering and design fees for the new building.

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A local source for additional information is Mr. Walther Daggett, Executive Director, Central Ohio Transit Authority, 150 East Broad Street, Suite 306, Columbus, Ohio 43215, (614) 221-8508. (OH-03-0048)

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