



**DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION**

**NEWS**

**URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION  
ADMINISTRATION**  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20590

FOR RELEASE WEDNESDAY  
June 26, 1974

UMTA 102-74  
Phone: (202) 426-4043

The U. S. Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) today announced a grant of \$986,560 to the Greater Lynchburg Transit Company of Lynchburg, Virginia. The grant will assist in purchasing the assets of the privately owned Lynchburg Transit Company, 17 new 45 passenger air-conditioned buses, 38 vault type registering fare boxes, 200 bus stop signs, 40 bus stop benches and related bus transit equipment.

Because of declining patronage, and increasing deficits, the City of Lynchburg finds public ownership necessary to prevent a cessation of service. The City has subsidized the failing company since 1972. Public acquisition will enable the Greater Lynchburg Transit Company, a non-profit service corporation owned by the City of Lynchburg, to initiate new service and to extend

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and improve existing routes. Also, it will enable the City to exercise effective control over fares and routes and eliminate the possibility of discontinued service in the area.

UMTA Administrator Frank C. Herringer noted that the preservation of mass transit in Lynchburg will ensure continued mobility for the City's 2.6 million riders who depend on public transportation each year. The 17 new buses will replace a like number of vehicles from 21 to 26 years old and result in substantial savings in maintenance costs, and increased rider comfort. The buses presently in use are non air-conditioned. Additionally, the new buses and installation of environmental improvement equipment on the older buses is expected to minimize the noxious emissions from the transit fleet.

The one-fifth share of the total project cost is being provided by local sources.

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For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043 or Mr. William M. Phillips, President, Greater Lynchburg Transit Company, City Hall, 900 Church Street, Lynchburg, Virginia 24505, telephone (804) 847-1315. (UMTA Project No. VA-03-0006)

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