



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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U.S. Secretary of Transportation Claude S. Brinegar today announced a supplemental grant of \$50,400,000 to the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority, (MARTA) Atlanta, Georgia. The grant, made by the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) supplements a previous grant of \$69,533,333 to assist MARTA in the construction of a rail rapid transit system and exclusive busway routes. The additional funding is provided by this grant for real estate acquisition, conceptual, preliminary and detail design, project management, construction on the East and West lines and relocation payments.

Secretary Brinegar noted that although some delays have occurred in the first year's activities, "a high degree of organization and mobilization have been attained." The proposed 50.1 miles of rail rapid transit system with 37 stations and three exclusive busway routes, totaling 14.4 miles is expected to cost about \$1.8 billion. Federal commitments to the project now total \$167.3 million.

UMTA Administrator Frank C. Herringer pointed out that MARTA has made substantial progress during the first full year of capital activity. The real estate

acquisition program has proceeded expeditiously, the engineering design on the East and West rail lines is 15 percent complete, architectural/engineering teams have been selected to complete preliminary and detailed designs of these lines and stations. With engineering consultants successfully organized and mobilized, a highly accelerated engineering and construction effort is anticipated for the coming fiscal year.

The additional UMTA funding and the project budget, provides sufficient funds to continue the fiscal year 1975 MARTA program of engineering, real estate acquisition, relocation of railroads and utilities, and construction. "Consistent with UMTA's policy to fund in such a way as to avoid delay," the Administrator said, "this project can move forward throughout the coming year without delays due to lack of funding."

The one-fifth local share of the total project cost is being provided by the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority.

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For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043 or Mr. Irving Breslauer, Director of Communications, MARTA, 100 Peachtree Street, N.W., Suite 1300, Atlanta, Georgia 30303 (404) 522-4460. (UMTA Project No. GA-03-0008-01)

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