FOR RELEASE THURSDAY
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UMTA 75-59
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U.S. Secretary of Transportation William T. Coleman Jr., today announced a $3,815,368 Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) grant to the Grand Rapids Transit Authority for transit improvements in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

The grant is designed to assist in the purchase of 17 new 45-passenger buses, 31 bus stop shelters and 1,115 bus stop signs. In addition, a parcel of land is being acquired and a new garage is to be constructed on the site.

In announcing the grant Secretary Coleman said, "This grant, by upgrading transit equipment and facilities, will significantly help to improve service and therefore mobility for the citizens of Grand Rapids." The 17 buses being purchased are for expanded service and decreased headways during peak periods.

UMTA Administrator, Frank C. Herringer, noted the significance of the new equipment and facilities in view of the deteriorated condition of present facilities. The maintenance work currently is performed in a leased antiquated trolley barn. The new facility will be located near the transit system's center which will minimize deadhead miles driven. The new site has excellent arterial access and the modern shop equipment, the new buses, and indoor storage facilities are expected to substantially reduce maintenance time and cost.

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The city of Grand Rapids and Mighigan Department of State Highways and Transportation are providing the local one-fifth 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. David Needham, Planner, Grand Rapids Transit Authority, City Hall, Grand Rapids, Mighigan 49502, (616) 456-3646. (UMTA Project No. MI-03-0042)