



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20590

FOR RELEASE WEDNESDAY

July 3, 1974

UMTA 117-74

Phone: (202) 426-4043

The U. S. Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) today announced a grant of \$5,937,168 to the City of Philadelphia for the construction of a downtown exclusive bus and pedestrian mall. The mall will be built along Chestnut Street between 7th and 19th Streets -- one of Philadelphia's busiest and most congested commercial areas.

The mall has been designated a Bicentennial project and is part of the city's campaign to ease transportation problems during the 1976 celebrations by offering attractive alternatives to the private automobile. When completed, the mall will be for the exclusive use of buses, pedestrians, and a few other specially excepted vehicles, and will be a focal point for transit service to the Art Museum, Fairmont Park and the downtown historical and shopping districts. Removing cars from the area will allow the city to operate buses at higher speeds and the consequent reduction in vehicle travel time will result in an annual saving of \$200,000. The mall will feature passenger shelters, special lighting, and transit information centers and will be served by 900 scheduled runs every day.

The local one-fifth share of the total project cost is being provided by the State of Pennsylvania and the City of Philadelphia.

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For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043 or William J. Grabske, Deputy to the Mayor for Transportation, 530 Municipal Services Building, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107 (215) 686-7088. (UMTA Project No. PA-03-0052)

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