



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# NEWS

## URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR RELEASE TUESDAY  
April 29, 1975

UMTA 75-37  
Phone: (202) 426-4043

U.S. Secretary of Transportation William T. Coleman, Jr. today announced a \$2,870,068 grant to the Delaware Authority for Regional Transit (DART), Wilmington, Delaware.

The grant is designed to assist DART, the principal mass transportation carrier in the Wilmington urban area keep pace with a steadily increasing ridership.

The Federal grant includes funds for the purchase of 45 new 45-passenger buses and three new 25-passenger buses, nine service and maintenance vehicles, 113 two-way radios and 48 fareboxes. In addition, 43 bus stop shelters, 2,000 bus stop signs, environmental improvement equipment and other transit related equipment are being purchased and installed.

Secretary Coleman said, "Wilmington's track record over the past few years exemplifies the progress that can be made when local, State and Federal officials work together for improved mobility." The Secretary added, "Improved public transportation is as vital to our nation's social and economic well-being as it is to the conservation of our dwindling energy resources."

The grant was made by the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA). Administrator Frank C. Herringer noted that UMTA's first grant to DART was made in 1969. At that time 55 new transit buses were purchased. In 1974, UMTA approved funding to assist DART in acquiring land and constructing a new garage/office facility.

Thirty-three antiquated vehicles averaging more than 17 years old are being replaced under the current program with a like number of new buses. The additional 12 new 45-passenger buses are expected to provide service extensions and improvements recommended in DART's Short-Range

Transit Improvement Program. The three new 25-passenger buses are to be used for shoppers loop service, express service from fringe parking areas and on the Market Street Mall.

Previous service and equipment improvements, innovative marketing techniques and more vigorous management practices halted the declining ridership in Wilmington in 1971. Since the low of 4.4 million riders in 1971, patronage on the system has progressively increased to 5.0 million in 1972, 5.2 million in 1973 and 5.5 million in 1974. A projected 30 percent increase in service with an increase of more than 6,000 riders per day is expected to result from service improvements planned in connection with the current project.

The State of Delaware is providing the local one-fifth share of the total project cost.

- 0 -

For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043 or Mr. Steve Welch, Delaware Authority for Regional Transit, P.O. Box 1670, Wilmington, Delaware 19899, (302) 658-8960. (UMTA Project No. DE-03-0002)

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION  
ADMINISTRATION

Washington, D.C. 20590

Official Business

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID  
URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION  
ADMINISTRATION  
DOT 511

FIRST CLASS

