



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20590

FOR RELEASE TUESDAY
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UMTA 75-52
Phone: (202) 426-4043

U. S. Secretary of Transportation William T. Coleman, Jr., today announced a \$1,288,928 Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) grant to the Kanawha Valley Regional Transportation Authority, Charleston, West Virginia.

The grant is designed to assist in financing various transit improvements as recommended in Charleston's regional Transit Development Program. Included are the purchase of 16 new buses, 34 bus stop shelters, 66 two-way radios, a base communication station and related bus transit equipment. Also provided for are real estate acquisition, the renovation of a garage and purchase of new shop and office equipment.

Secretary Coleman expressed satisfaction that "Most American cities now recognize the necessity for a sound urban transportation planning program as a basis for effective use of available capital funding." He added, "The Federal urban transportation program provides assistance in both of these critical areas."

The Kanawha Valley Regional Transportation Authority is the only mass transportation carrier in the Charleston area and presently operates 44 vehicles to meet its peak-hour requirements on 21 routes.

UMTA Administrator Frank C. Herringer noted that 10 new 41-passenger buses are needed for fleet renewal as replacements for 10 coaches more than 21 years old. One new 45-passenger coach and 3 new 25-passenger buses are being acquired for planned route extensions and headway improvements. Two other small buses are being equipped with wheelchair lifts for use in a demand-responsive mode to provide mobility for riders with special needs.

The Kanawha Valley Regional Transportation Authority is providing the local one-fifth share 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. Harold Miller, General Manager, Kanawha Valley Regional Transportation Authority, P.O. Box 1188, Charleston, West Virginia 25324, (304) 343-7586. (UMTA Project No. WV-03-0008).

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