



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

NEWS

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UMTA 75-72
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U.S. Secretary of Transportation William T. Coleman Jr., today announced an intended long-term \$500 million commitment of Federal assistance to the Maryland Mass Transit Administration (MTA) which combined with \$72.6 million in grants already made by the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), would bring total Federal aid to almost \$573 million in Baltimore, Maryland. A concurrent announcement of \$76,091,200 in supplemental funding to Baltimore is included in the long-term commitment.

Secretary Coleman spoke of the nation's weak energy position and reaffirmed "the Administration's commitment to urban transportation as a vital instrument in alleviating the energy shortage." He added, "The state of Maryland is making significant progress in constructing a rail system for Baltimore and we are pleased to make this substantial Federal commitment."

The \$76,091,200 in supplemental funding provides for continuation of the final design and construction of an 8.5 mile section of the system from the Baltimore City line in the northwest to a point near Baltimore and Gay Streets in downtown Baltimore just east of the proposed Charles Center station.

UMTA Acting Administrator Judith T. Connor noted that since the approval of the initial grant and groundbreaking in October 1974, the state of Maryland has added needed staff, final design is underway on seven of the 10 stations and the awarding of design contracts for the remaining three stations is imminent. Sufficient funds are being made available to

continue design engineering and project administration costs with a major portion of the funds being allocated to construction.

Under the long-term plan, the second such UMTA commitment, a projected schedule of annual UMTA grant approvals for the remaining \$424 million commitment will be arranged. It is expected that MTA will devote the UMTA funds, in concert with available state and local resources, to ensure completion of segments of the system for which environmental reviews and approvals have been secured. The first such long-term commitment was made to the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority.

The Maryland Department of Transportation is providing the local 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. Walter J. Addison, Mass Transit Administrator, Maryland Department of Transportation, P.O. Box 8755, Baltimore, Maryland 21240, (301)383-6035. (UMTA Project No. MD-03-0004-02).

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