



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# NEWS

## URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

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UMTA: (202) 426-4043

U.S. Secretary of Transportation William T. Coleman, Jr., today announced two Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) grants totaling \$16.5 million to the Metropolitan Bus Authority (MBA), San Juan, Puerto Rico, to assist in the construction and equipping of a new maintenance/administrative facility, purchase of 100 new buses and other improvements.

In making the announcement Secretary Coleman said, "Cooperation among Federal, State and local authorities to provide the best possible transportation service in the Nation's urban areas is a major goal in the transit field. These grants will significantly improve the mobility of the people of metropolitan San Juan."

The first grant for \$11,024,492 will help replace an inadequate maintenance facility and obsolete equipment that has hindered MBA's provision of quality, well-maintained bus service in the greater San Juan area. (UMTA Project No. PR-03-0006).

The second grant, for \$5,516,192 helps purchase 100 new 40 to 45-passenger, air-conditioned transit buses and the installation of turnstiles for fare collection. (UMTA Project No. PR-03-0011).

Acting UMTA Administrator Judith T. Connor noted that public transportation ridership in the San Juan area is quite heavy, with two-thirds of all transit trips being made on the MBA system. The remainder of the trips are made on publicos, taxis or one of the 22 small private bus companies which operate in the area.

The new facility, to be built on land already purchased in the San Francisco area of San Juan, will accommodate up to 450 buses plus all maintenance, administrative and operating activities. Previous Federal commitments have made possible the purchase of 360 buses for the system. In addition to the bus purchases, UMTA technical studies funding has assisted substantially in the improvement of maintenance management procedures for a significant improvement in the system's operating performance.

The local one-fifth share of the total project cost will be derived from Commonwealth of Puerto Rico revenues.

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For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043 or Mr. Juan Ramos Velilla, President and General Manager, Metropolitan Bus Authority, P.O. Box 1029, Hato Rey, Puerto Rico 00919, (809) 765-7001.



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