



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR RELEASE WEDNESDAY
July 23, 1975

UMTA 75-82
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U.S. Secretary of Transportation William T. Coleman Jr., today announced a \$14,246,256 grant to the Utah Transit Authority for transit improvements in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The grant is designed to assist in the purchase of 206 new diesel transit buses and related support equipment.

Secretary Coleman said the Utah grant is consistent with Federal policy advocating the creation of the best possible transportation system for the American people. The Secretary pointed out, however, that this system must be consistent with the nation's financial ability. In announcing the Utah grant, Secretary Coleman said, "recently, by public referendum, residents of the two populous counties served by the Utah Transit Authority approved a sales tax to be used in the expansion of the present bus system and to finance a fare structure that is one of the lowest of any major system in the nation." In view of the present Federal policy," the Secretary added, "it is appropriate that a government transportation grant is being made to assist local efforts to improve mobility within the state of Utah."

In addition to the new buses, five other vehicles will be specially equipped with lifts for transportation of elderly and handicapped persons. Other improvements include land acquisition for construction of park-and-ride facilities, construction of an additional terminal, purchase and installation of bus stop signs, shelters, benches and other equipment.

Acting UMTA Administrator Judith T. Connor noted the dramatic increase in ridership since the Utah Transit Authority began operating the system in the latter part of 1970. In less than five years, five uncoordinated, failing bus companies have been transformed into a unified public transit system with a resulting

increase in patronage from 3.1 million to 6.2 million riders in 1974. The system serves almost three-fourths of the state's population, primarily within the counties of Salt Lake, Davis and Weber. These counties are 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. William D. Oswald, Secretary and General Sounsel, Utah Transit Authority, 19 East 2nd Street South, Salt Lake City, Utah 84110, (801) 364-3631. (UMTA Project No. UT-03-0005)

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