



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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FEDERAL TRANSIT ASSISTANCE FOR ATLANTA'S RAPID RAIL TRANSIT SYSTEM

A \$132 million grant to the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA), Atlanta, Georgia, for continued construction of the area's new rapid rail transit system was announced today by Robert E. Patricelli, Administrator of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA).

"UMTA's \$800 million commitment to construction of the new rail transit system in Atlanta is proceeding on schedule," Patricelli said. "Including the \$132 million grant announced today Federal assistance to MARTA now totals \$691,797,333. Within the last 13 months alone, UMTA has approved about \$290 million," he added.

The Administrator commended local officials on the significance of their achievement in bringing the new rail system to Atlanta. "Construction of the MARTA transit system represents one of the largest public works projects ever undertaken in the state. Beyond the many additional jobs created each year through the region by MARTA construction, this project will bring about far-reaching benefits in improved urban mobility, development and growth, and will have a positive impact on the commerce of Atlanta and the entire surrounding region. The on-schedule and within-budget performance of

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MARTA construction exceeds that of any major rail construction project UMTA has funded."

A Federal commitment of \$800 million to the new Atlanta system was made by U.S. Secretary of Transportation William T. Coleman, Jr., on June 7, 1975. The hub of the new system will be at Five points Station, located in the Atlanta Central Business District at a point common to the proposed east-west and north-south rail operations. The East Line is scheduled for opening in December 1978.

The \$132 million UMTA grant will aid in the purchase and installation of support equipment, purchase of real estate, insurance, engineering and design, construction of right-of-way and facilities and related costs of continued construction of the rapid rail system. The grant is expected to carry project construction through September, 1977.

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A local source for additional information is Mr. Carroll Olson, Federal Relations Coordinator, Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority, Suite 1300, 100 Peachtree Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303. (GA-03-0003-07)

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