



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR RELEASE THURSDAY
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UMTA 93-74
Phone: (202) 426-4043

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) today announced a grant of \$2,496,720 to the City of Tucson, Arizona, for badly needed capital improvements for the city's bus system. The grant provides for the purchase of twelve 49-53 passenger, thirty-two 40-45 passenger, and eleven 30-35 passenger transit buses. Six radio equipped vans specially fitted to accomodate persons in wheel chairs, 100 passenger shelters and other equipment also will be acquired.

The fifty-five new buses will replace forty old coaches, 15 to 26 years old, and will be used to reduce headways on all existing routes, and to initiate service on five new routes. The specially equipped vans will expand Tucson's special needs transportation service. This service provides free transportation for the handicapped, poor, and elderly but presently can only meet a fraction of the demands for such service.

For the last five years, bus ridership in Tucson has been climbing rapidly and continued patronage increases are expected. In order to meet its capacity requirements, the city intends to lease a number of buses until the vehicles ordered under today's grant are delivered.

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The local one-fifth share of the project's total cost is being provided by the City of Tucson.

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For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043 or Mr. John Allen, Administrative Assistant, to the Mayor, P.O. Box 5547 Tucson, Arizona 85703 (602) 791-4371 (UMTA Project No. AZ-03-0003)

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