



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

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UMTA 75-54
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U. S. Secretary of Transportation William T. Coleman Jr., today announced an Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) grant of more than \$1.8 million to help the Raleigh, North Carolina, Transit Authority acquire a faltering local bus company, purchase 23 new buses and related transit equipment and construct a new garage/office facility.

The \$1,898,616 grant will enable the city to purchase the assets of the Raleigh City Coach Lines, 17 new 41 to 45-passenger buses, six 19 to 24-passenger buses (two equipped with wheel chair lifts), 23 fare boxes, 42 radios and a base station, land for a garage/office facility, and architectural fees for the building's design.

The private carrier told Raleigh officials in 1974 that it would have to cease operation due to operating losses. The city entered into a lease agreement with the carrier to subsidize the line as an interim measure until a public takeover could take place.

Since then, the total system patronage and revenues have declined to the point where a public takeover is the only way to save public transit service in Raleigh.

The new buses and planned expansions in service, according to UMTA Administrator Frank C. Herringer are expected to stop the declining ridership trend in Raleigh. The number of regular routes will increase from 11 to 19 and four routes to outlying areas will be

added during peak hours. In addition, the two buses with special lifts for specialized service and four additional small buses will provide loop service in the non-peak hours to connect elderly and low income residential areas with business, medical, and commercial centers.

The city of Raleigh is 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. Don Blackburn, North Carolina Department of Transportation, Raleigh, North Carolina 27602. (UMTA Project No. NC-03-0007).

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