



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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UMTA 76- 73

A grant of \$15,750,080 to assist in the purchase of 174 new air-conditioned buses and other improvements to the Washington, D.C. bus transit system was announced today by Robert E. Patricelli, Administrator of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA).

Administrator Patricelli noted that "A well-balanced efficient transportation system for the Nation's capital depends on continuing bus transit improvements as well as completion of Metrorail, the first segment of which is already in operation."

The grant, to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), provides funds for the purchase of 124 new 47-passenger buses, 50 new 70-passenger buses, 61 two-way radios, 275 fare boxes, 200 passenger shelters, service vehicles and shop equipment and architectural and engineering services for the design of additions to three existing shop facilities to accommodate the new 70-passenger buses. The large buses, consisting of two segments joined together with a flexible coupling are known as articulated buses.

The articulated buses are being acquired as a part of a nationwide order which will provide 285 such buses to 10 transit systems throughout the United States. In Washington, the new buses are for use in heavily used corridors which will not be served by Metrorail.

All buses are being purchased as replacements with no additions to the total Metrobus fleet as a result of the project. The remaining improvements are part of a phased replacement program instituted with the 1973 public takeover of Washington's bus systems.

Local participating jurisdictions are providing a one-fifth share of the total project cost through the Washington

Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

A local source for additional information is Mr. Robert Coddington, Senior Financial Analyst, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, 600 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001, (202) 637-1209. (UMTA Project No. IT-03-0029).

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