



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

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UMTA 77-19

METRO GETS \$17.8 MILLION FOR OPERATING ASSISTANCE

Three operating assistance grants totaling \$17,807,610 for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) were announced today by U.S. Secretary of Transportation Brock Adams.

"It's encouraging to see Metrobus ridership is increasing," Secretary Adams said. "During the past two years, 6,000,000 more passengers have used the transit system." He noted that the Federal operating funds "will assist the residents of the nation's capital in maintaining and improving their public transportation service." I am pleased he added, "that the Department can make this significant contribution to the Washington area's public transportation system."

Metrobus passenger ridership for this year is estimated at 128.9 million. In 1975, the transit system carried 122.8 million passengers.

Three transit jurisdictions receive the Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) grants for Section 5 operating assistance to cover eligible transit operating expenses of WMATA during the period July 1, 1976 through June 30, 1977. The grants recipients are:

District of Columbia, \$8,093,881 (DC-05-4003); Washington Suburban Transit Commission, Silver Spring, Maryland, \$5,714,361 (MD-05-4006), and Northern Virginia Transportation Commission, Arlington, Virginia, \$3,999,368 (VA-05-4013).

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An additional source for information is Mr. Theodore Lutz, General Manager, Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority, 600 Fifth Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001, (202) 637-1234.

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