

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

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U.S. Secretary of Transportation William T. Coleman, Jr., today announced a \$2,612,396 grant to AC Transit of Oakland,
California, to support bus feeder service to Bay Area Rapid Transit
(BART) rail stations in the San Francisco's East Bay area.

The grant is designed to assist in the purchase of 36 new, air-conditioned, diesel transit buses, installation of communications equipment, including 38 two-way bus radios, four base radio stations, bus shelters, bus stop signs and related equipment.

Secretary Coleman said, "Cooperation among Federal, State and local authorities to provide the best possible balance in transportation for every community is a goal we are striving to achieve across the nation."

The Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) made today's grant while the independently operated BART and AC Transit systems are working together to extend the BART rail service to East Bay area residents. The four connecting express bus routes serve areas of the East Bay region which support the BART system with tax monies but have not had transit access to the rail system.

Secretary Coleman noted that the new buses are replacements for older buses used to implement the new service late last year. Funds are being provided under the grant to retrofit the new buses with lifts to make service fully accessible to elderly and handicapped patrons, including persons confined to wheelchairs.

AC Transit is providing the local one-fifth share of the total project cost. The funds are derived from California State SB 325 funds and provided through BART.

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For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043 or Mr. Lawrence Rosenberg, District Secretary, AC Transit, 508 16th Street, Oakland, California 94612, (415) 654-7878, ext. 202. (UMTA Project No. CA-03-0066).

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