

# U.S. Department of Transportation news:



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UMTA 77-54

A \$100 million grant for design and construction of Baltimore's new rapid transit system was announced today by U.S. Secretary of Transportation Brock Adams.

The grant was made by the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) to the Maryland Department of Transportation as a part of a \$572.6 million full funding commitment to the Baltimore system.

UMTA Administrator Richard S. Page noted the funding supplements nearly \$250 million already committed to building an eight mile operable rail transit segment between Charles Center Station in downtown Baltimore and Reisterstown Plaza Station near the Baltimore City-County line in the northwest.

The Administrator pointed out the barrier free design "is the first system in the country to allow for complete accessibility by elderly and handicapped persons."

Every rapid transit station will have a service/passenger elevator and passengers can request the elevator by either pushing a button or using a two-way audio system. All buttons will be located at a level which can be reached from wheelchair. There also will be a speaker system in each elevator to allow for two-way communication between the passenger and station agent. Elevators will be large enough to allow passengers to turn a wheelchair around and handrails will be located to assist the handicapped in holding on while the elevator is in motion.

Today's grant is primarily for construction of the Mondawmin Portal, Laurens Street line and station structure, Cold Spring Lane line and the Rogers/Reisterstown Plaza line. Other items budgeted include funds to permit final design to continue through March 1978, relocation of Western Maryland Railway tracks, traction power procurement and other construction related costs.

A local source for additional information is Mr. Gunther Gottfeld, Director, Intergovernmental Relations, Maryland Department of Transportation, Baltimore-Washington International Airport, Baltimore, Maryland 21240, (301) 383-4526. (MD-03-0004-04)

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