

U. S. Department of Transportation

news:



Office of Public Affairs

Washington, D.C. 20590

FOR RELEASE TUESDAY
January 31, 1978

UMTA 5-78
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DOT AWARDS \$12 MILLION FOR COLUMBUS BUS TRANSIT IMPROVEMENTS

Secretary of Transportation Brock Adams today announced a grant of \$12,241,136 to construct a new bus storage and maintenance facility in Columbus, Ohio.

"We must continue to be mindful of the energy conservation benefits tied to the greater use of public transportation" Adams said, "and I commend those Columbus officials responsible for a realistic view toward meeting the community's future public transportation needs." The proposed new facility allows sufficient maintenance capability for expansion of the 274 bus fleet to 400 buses which ridership projections show will be needed within the next eight years.

The grant is being made to the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) by the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA).

UMTA Administrator Richard S. Page noted the location of the new facility will be on the McKinley Avenue garage site acquired by COTA along with the Cleveland Avenue garage in 1976. The two garages were both bought with the assistance of a \$1,418,784 UMTA grant which also provided for the design of the new facility.

The grant approved today includes funds for the purchase and installation of heavy maintenance equipment, office furniture and equipment and the purchase and installation of a new fare collection system.

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A local source for additional information is Mr. James Reeding, General Manager, Central Ohio Transit Authority, 10 West Long Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215 (614) 228-3831 (OH-03-0048-01)

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