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news:



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\$50 MILLION TO BUFFALO FOR LIGHT RAIL SYSTEM

A \$50 million grant for construction of the new Buffalo, N.Y., light rail rapid transit system was announced today by U.S. Secretary of Transportation Brock Adams.

Secretary Adams said that a total federal commitment of \$359,840,000 has been made to complete the rail line from downtown Buffalo to the South Campus of the State University.

According to Richard S. Page, Administrator of the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration, the \$50 million grant announced today will be used by the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority for design, engineering, right-of-way acquisition, and initial construction of the north tunnel section.

The Buffalo-Amherst corridor, in which the proposed light rail line will be constructed, has been considered a candidate for a rail transit line since the late 60's. The system was initiated in 1976 with a DOT grant of \$8 million for final design, engineering and study of the system's environmental impact.

Secretary Adams also announced today the award of a \$5,220,000 grant to the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority to help cover operating expenses of the city's bus system from April 1, 1978, through March 31, 1979.

A local source for additional information is Mr. Chester R. Hart, Chairman, NFTA, 181 Ellicott Street, Buffalo, N.Y. 14205, (716) 855-7300. (NY-03-0072-01 and NY-05-4078).

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