



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

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UMTA 17-74
Phone: (202) 426-4043

Secretary of Transportation Claude S. Brinegar today announced a supplemental Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) grant of \$6,188,152 to the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA) to assist in the purchase of land and construction of a heavy maintenance facility on the new site. Purchase of a vacuum fare collection system and related bus equipment is included in the approved project.

"Atlanta's reduced fare structure, early service improvements and the resulting rapid increase in ridership have placed heavy demands on the new MARTA bus operating," said Secretary Brinegar. "The Department is very pleased to participate with the people of Atlanta in their successes in providing better service and attracting new riders."

After approval of the original grant, enabling acquisition of the privately owned Atlanta Transit System and the passage of the 1971 referendum, MARTA reduced fares to 15¢, improved service, and began implementation of a short-range capital improvement program. The resulting ridership climbed from 57,788,000 riders during the 12 month period prior to takeover in March 1972 to 68,515,000 passengers in 1973 -- an increase of nearly one-fifth in less than two years.

Frank C. Herringer, UMTA Administrator noted that the original Federal grant for improvement of the bus operation and a subsequent amendment totaled \$32,968,239. The award announced today is a

result of a reevaluation and refinement of the short-range project and is designed to round out and complete the bus segment of the total MARTA program.

The one-fifth local share of the project cost is being provided by the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority through the voter approved sales tax.

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For further information contact the Urban Mass Transportation Administration, Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043 or Mr. Alan F. Kiepper, General Manager, MARTA, Suite 1300, 100 Peachtree Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303. (UMTA Project No. GA-03-0007-02)

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