



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR RELEASE TUESDAY
February 19, 1974

UMTA 27-74
Phone: (202) 426-4043

Secretary of Transportation Claude S. Brinegar today announced an Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) grant of \$3,052,424 to Charleston, West Virginia's Kanawha Valley Regional Transportation Authority (KVRTA) to assist in the purchase of the assets of the privately owned Charleston Transit Company (CTC). Also, the grant will help purchase 21 new 40-45 passenger buses, 19 new 25-30 passenger buses, two supervisory vehicles and related bus transit support equipment.

In announcing the grant Secretary Brinegar noted that this is the 116th UMTA grant to cities throughout the country to assist in the public takeover of a failing private bus transit system. "More and more cities are finding it both prudent and good business to financially support improved transportation services," Secretary Brinegar said.

Increasing cost and expenses and decreasing ridership forced the CTC to cease operations in late 1971. The KVRTA leased equipment and operating facilities of the defunct company and resumed public transportation service.

UMTA Administrator Frank C. Herringer pointed out that the action by county voters in approving a \$3.7 million special county-wide property tax levy makes possible the acquisition of the capital improvements and provides current operating and maintenance expenses. Excluding special education levies, this is one of the largest margins of victory given a levy in the County's history.

- 2 -

On delivery, the new buses will replace buses presently in use ranging from 17 to more than 25 years old. The new buses are expected to have a favorable impact on maintenance costs and the reliability of the entire system.

The one-fifth local share of the project cost is being provided by the Kanawha Valley Regional Transportation Authority.

-- O --

For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043 or Mr. Harold Miller, General Manager, Kanawha Valley Regional Transportation Authority, P.O. Box 1188, Charleston, West Virginia 25324. (UMTA Project No. WV-03-0004)

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION
ADMINISTRATION

Washington, D.C. 20590

Official Business

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION
ADMINISTRATION
DOT 511



FIRST CLASS