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DOT AWARDS \$211 MILLION
FOR WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA

Two grants totaling \$211.9 million for Metrorail construction and new buses in the Washington, D.C., area were announced today by Secretary of Transportation Brock Adams.

The grant of \$198,840,328 was made available through the Interstate transfer provision of the Urban Mass Transportation Act. The funds will enable the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) to complete construction on the Rockville, Huntington and Addison Road rapid transit routes. The addition of these 26 miles of rapid rail lines will fulfill the terms of the region's Interim Capital Contributions Agreement, which provided local funding for a 60-mile rapid rail transit system .

"This is a milestone for WMATA, the local governments and the federal government," Secretary Adams noted, "in providing a truly region-wide, comprehensive rail transit system for the Washington metropolitan area."

In addition to construction activities this grant, made by the department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), also will fund the purchase and installation of equipment for fare collection, automatic train control and communication.

A second grant of \$13,145,376 helps purchase 115 new buses and wheelchair lifts to be retrofitted on 131 buses which the Authority now has on order from a previously approved UMTA grant.

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Richard S. Page, UMTA Administrator said, "The Authority seeks to continue its effort to make the Metrobus system more accessible to the transit riding public, including persons using wheelchairs. As a result, 15 percent of its total operating bus fleet will soon be equipped with lifts."

This grant also helps purchase 74 service vehicles as replacements for over-aged cars and rental vehicles. The Authority also will make garage and refueling facility improvements and replace major tools.

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A local source for additional information is Edward Brubaker (rail inquiries) (202) 637-1260 (IT-23-4003-3), and Don Staver (bus inquiries) (202) 637-1260 (IT-03-0034), Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, 600 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001.

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