

U.S. Department of Transportation news:



Office of Assistant Secretary for Governmental and Public Affairs

Washington, D.C. 20590

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 27, 1979

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UMTA 13-79

FEDERAL GRANT TO EXTEND ATLANTA RAIL TRANSIT

A federal grant to extend the Atlanta, Ga., rail rapid transit system beyond the first 13.7 mile segment was announced today by U.S. Secretary of Transportation Brock Adams.

Adams said a \$25 million grant is being made by the department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration to the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority to assist in work preliminary to any further construction on the planned 53-mile rapid rail system.

Today's announced grant will provide for acquisition of right-of-way; relocation of businesses, individuals and utilities; demolition; and other activities along the North Line from North Avenue to Arts Center and the South Line from Garnett to West End. This segment, the next to be constructed, will include stations at Midtown, Arts Center and West End.

In a letter to Georgia Governor George Busbee, Adams said, "It is our intention to support further construction of an expanded rail system. Although constrained budget levels will restrict the magnitude of federal grants, I believe that such federal funding combined with revenues derived from your local one percent sales tax, will still enable significant progress to be made in meeting the transit authority's goals."

The Secretary pointed out that the department is counting on continued support by the Governor, the Georgia General Assembly and Atlanta, Fulton and DeKalb County officials to maintain their financial support of the system.

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Adams commended Atlanta's Mayor Maynard Jackson and county officials on their progress to date. He said, "The transit authority has demonstrated exemplary capabilities in execution of the project."

UMTA's Administrator Richard S. Page noted that the previous \$800 million federal commitment included construction of 13.7 miles of track and 17 stations and the purchase of 100 rapid transit cars. Part of the system is scheduled for opening in July of this year.

A local source for additional information is Mr. Carroll Olson, Federal Coordinator, Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority, 2200 Peachtree Summit, 401 West Peachtree, Street, N.E., Atlanta, Ga. 30309. (404) 518-586-5060.

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