



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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UMTA 73-63
Phone: (202) 426-4043

The U. S. Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) today announced a grant of \$1,703,803 to the Central Oklahoma Transportation and Parking Authority (COTPA) to assist in the purchase of twenty new 40-45 passenger buses and related equipment, the acquisition of 5.5 acres of land, and the construction of a new administration and maintenance facility.

Additional items to be funded by the grant include the purchase of 25 two-way radios and a base station, three maintenance vehicles a fare collection system and office and maintenance equipment.

In announcing the grant Secretary of Transportation Claude S. Brinegar noted that the administration and maintenance facility has been needed by COTPA for some time, and that once the new facility is built, COPTA will be able to reduce costs by assuming responsibility for its own fleet maintenance instead of having to rely on an outside contractor.

UMTA Administrator Frank C. Herringer observed that Oklahoma City, though large in area is low in density with ample downtown parking and a good road system. He said this was not conducive to mass transit playing a major role locally, in spite of the fact that certain segments of the population, especially the poor and elderly, were transit-dependent. Currently, several routes serve specific concentrations of

the elderly, and a reduced fare is available to them. The UMTA Administrator expressed the hope that COTPA would succeed in making the system an attractive alternative to all the citizens of the community through aggressive management and marketing practices.

The local one-third share will be provided from the sale of general obligation bonds and the projected operating deficits will be met from the General Fund of the City.

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For further information contact the UMTA Public Affairs Office at (202) 426-4043 or Mr. T. L. Akkola, Executive Director, Central Oklahoma Transportation and Parking Authority, 2 Santa Fe Plaza, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73102. (UMTA Project No. OK-03-0003)

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