



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

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UMTA 73-87
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Secretary of Transportation Claude S. Brinegar today announced an Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) grant of \$5 million to Virginia's Greater Richmond Transit Company (GRTC) for the public acquisition of the privately owned Virginia Transit Company (VTC) and the purchase of 76 new 45 passenger buses and related equipment.

In announcing the grant, Secretary Brinegar noted that this would be the first capital grant awarded under the new 80/20 formula recently enacted as part of the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1973, and signed by President Nixon on August 13. "Other provisions of this new Act," Brinegar said, "will make it possible for more and more communities to take part in programs for developing better, more balanced transportation based on local priorities." The Secretary added that environmental protection, highway safety, energy conservation, and community development were also high priority features provided for in the Act.

In addition to the purchase of VTC's assets and the new buses, today's \$5,068,280 Federal share will provide for the installation of environmental improvement packages on 106 currently operating buses and the repainting of 53 older buses to conform to the new color scheme of the GRTC fleet.

Referring to the award, UMTA Administrator Franck C. Herringer observed that Richmond is demonstrating its commitment to achieving quality transit service by approving a general fare reduction and by eliminating all zone and transfer charges. As a further part of its over-all transit plan, the city will also implement route expansion,

including extending transit service to nearly all medical and clinic facilities in the area.

Herringer went on to say that today's award was the result of a previous UMTA funded Technical Studies Program for the preparation of both long and short range plans for the improvement of transportation in the Richmond area. This capital grant represents an important first step in implementing those plans.

The local 20% share will be contributed by the Greater Richmond Transit Company from funds made available by the City of Richmond.

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For further information contact the UMTA Public Affairs Office at (202) 426-4043 or Mr. William Leidinger, Greater Richmond Transit Company, 900 Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219. (UMTA Project No. VA-03-0005)

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