



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The U.S. Department of Transportation today made a \$38,136,666 grant to the Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART) in Oakland, California, to help BART complete its 75-mile rail mass transit system in the Bay area.

Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe said that the "capital grant project is part of President Nixon's \$3.1 billion, five-year program to develop new rapid transit and commuter rail systems across the Nation."

The grant, made by the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), will pay for two-thirds of the \$57,205,000 project. The remaining one-third funds totaling \$19,068,334 will be provided by BART. Local contributions for the entire project were obtained from the sale of general obligation bonds which were authorized by a recent \$792 million bond issue and special sales tax.

The Federal government's financial investment in BART will, with this seventh UMTA capital grant, reach \$178 million in direct capital grants, covering about 13 percent of the \$1.4 billion BART system costs, according to UMTA Administrator Carlos C. Villarreal. Today's grant will help finish the remaining BART construction work along Market Street in San Francisco for initial use by the San Francisco Municipal Railway (MUNI).

"The effect of BART on Bay area life styles, employment patterns, environmental functions, and urban vitality are yet to be determined," commented Administrator Villarreal, "but we are looking forward to increased public interest and ridership by providing more efficient and comfortable transit facilities."

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Today's grant will help finance such capital improvements as rail transit car washers, car stops, system symbol signs, an under-car fire protection system, a data acquisition system, and other improvements to complete all remaining phases of the city's transit improvement program. In addition to providing capital equipment acquisition funds, today's grant will allow BART to construct a storage building at the Oakland shops location, a cash-handling building, and cash-handling equipment.

In addition to providing seven capital grants to BART, UMTA has made approximately \$42 million in grants to the cities of San Francisco and Berkeley, as well as helped to finance demonstration projects at the Diablo Test Track.

"This \$220 million total reflects a consistent aim by the Federal government and BART over the past nine years to stimulate this project through selective and carefully designed grant programs," commented Administrator Villarreal.

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For further information, contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043, or the Bay Area Rapid Transit District, 800 Madison Street, Oakland, California. (UMTA Project No. CA-03-0052)

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