



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe today announced a grant of more than \$27 million to the Bay Area Rapid Transit District in Oakland, California, to help BART purchase 100 additional rapid transit rail cars.

The \$27,198,666 grant, made by the Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), brings to 350 the number of BART rail cars financed with Federal two-thirds funding, Secretary Volpe said.

"The Federal government's financial investment in BART will, with this seventh UMTA capital grant, reach \$207 million in direct capital grants, covering about 15 percent of BART's total \$1.4 billion system costs," the Secretary said.

"Our assistance to BART is part of President Nixon's 1970 Urban Mass Transportation Assistance Act, which is now pumping a total of about \$1 billion a year into nearly every mass transit system in America to help provide the mobility which today's commuters demand." Secretary Volpe said.

"Funds from today's grant will be used to buy 100 more high-speed rail transit cars which will help carry an estimated 200,000 commuters a day by 1975," the Secretary said. In March 1971, UMTA made a \$40 million grant to BART to help with construction funding and to purchase the first 250 rail cars of a planned 450-car fleet.

Today's grant is in addition to a \$38 million grant made earlier this month to help BART complete its 75-mile rail transit system in the San Francisco Bay area. The first 28-mile segment of that system opened last month and now carries more than 20,000 persons a day between Oakland and Fremont.

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 nearly \$250 million in total UMTA grants reflects a consistent aim by the President over the past few years to stimulate the economy while at the same time providing much-needed public services through selective and carefully designed grant programs," Secretary Volpe said.

"Last year, an estimated 4,500 workers were employed on various BART construction jobs alone, with weekly payrolls of close to \$1 million," the Secretary said. "This has made BART one of the largest contributors to the economy in the Bay area."

Aside from the financial impact, BART is expected to change the life styles and urban transportation habits of many people in the Bay area, commented Administrator Carlos C. Villarreal of UMTA, who accompanied Secretary Volpe today.

"The effects of BART on Bay area life styles, employment patterns, environmental functions and urban vitality are yet to be determined," Administrator Villarreal said. "We certainly are looking forward to increased public interest and ridership now that we are helping to provide more efficient and comfortable transit facilities."

The BART system is the first major new rail transit undertaking in America since 1907. It will combine a mix of subway, aerial, underwater and ground-level high-speed transportation along 75 miles of protected right-of-way.

Local funds totaling \$13,599,334 will be added to today's UMTA grant, bringing the total funds available to purchase the 100 new rail transit cars and related equipment to \$40.7 million, Secretary Volpe concluded. The local money is being raised from the sale of general obligation bonds which were authorized by a recent \$792 million bond issue and special sales tax.

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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 94607. (UMTA Project No. CA-03-0059)

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