



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR RELEASE TUESDAY
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UMTA 73-54
Phone: (202) 426-4043

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) today announced a grant of \$9.5 million to the City of Cincinnati, Ohio to assist in the acquisition of the privately-owned Cincinnati Transit, Inc. (CTI), and the purchase of 170 new buses and related equipment.

This grant for \$9,480,600 will provide for the purchase and installation of maintenance, service and support equipment, the purchase and installation of low pollution injectors on 171 buses, and the renovation of 82 buses in addition to the purchase of the 170 new 47-50 passenger buses and the acquisition of CTI.

In announcing the grant, UMTA Administrator Frank C. Herringer noted that over the past several years the transit situation in Cincinnati had presented a bleak picture. Ridership had been declining at an alarming rate, dropping 85% since 1946, and losing 47% since 1968. Herringer went on to say that as a result of a "Letter of No Prejudice," the city was able to take over CTI's operations on April 1st of this year and fares were immediately reduced to 25 cents. During the first full month of reduced fares ridership increased by 14% over the previous month, the Administrator added, and every indication is that the downward spiral is being reversed. It is this kind of reinvigoration of mass transit that President Nixon said is necessary if we are to have cleaner, better, safer communities.

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This new, publicly-owned transit system will be operated for the City of Cincinnati by the Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority (SORTA), and will be financed from funds obtained by 0.3% increase in payroll taxes for transit purposes, approved by the voters of Cincinnati last November. The local one-third share for today's grant will also be provided from proceeds of the new transit tax.

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For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043 or Mr. E. Robert Turner, City Manager, City of Cincinnati, City Hall, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202. (UMTA Project No. OH-03-0019)

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