



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR RELEASE MONDAY
June 25, 1973

UMTA 73-55
Phone: (202) 426-4043

Today in New York, Administrator Frank C. Herringer of the Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) announced a grant of \$6.2 million to the County of Nassau Department of Public Transportation to assist in the acquisition of ten privately owned bus companies, the purchase of 50 new buses, and to make numerous improvements to service facilities and equipment.

This \$6,212,328 grant will make possible the County's purchase of the assets of the following companies; Bee Lines, Inc., Rockville Centre Bus Corp., Stage Coach Lines, Inc., Utility Lines, Inc., Schenk Transportation Co., Inc., Universal Auto-bus Service Corp., Hempstead Bus Corp., Jerusalem Avenue Bus Line, Inc., Branch Bus Corp., and Roosevelt Bus Lines, Inc. In addition, 50 new 49-53 passenger buses and related equipment will be purchased along with miscellaneous shop and service equipment. The current fleet of 243 buses will be repainted in a single color scheme and 150, with a life-span of two or more years, will be retrofitted with equipment designed to reduce pollution emissions.

Although no major route changes will be made immediately, service frequency will be improved, and possible route, schedule and fare changes are being considered under a Federally-funded study currently in progress.

In announcing the grant Herringer noted that this acquisition would go a long way towards correcting the lack of route, schedule and fare coordination between the many carriers and that public ownership would facilitate the restructuring of services into a unified County-wide system. The Administrator observed that reinvigorating the Nassau system could reverse the trend that caused a more than 50 percent loss in ridership between 1948 and 1971 and added another 11 percent loss in 1972.

The Metropolitan Suburban Bus Authority (MSBA) has been created to operate the new service, and the local one-third share will be provided by Nassau County.

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For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043 or the County of Nassau, Department of Public Transportation, Nassau County Executive Building, Mineola, New York 11501 (UMTA Project No. NY-03-0050).

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