



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR RELEASE TUESDAY
June 26, 1973

UMTA 73-60
Phone: (202) 426-4043

The Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) today announced a grant of \$4.5 million to the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, Tennessee to acquire the assets of the privately owned Nashville Transit Company and the purchase of 112 new buses and revised equipment for expanded operations.

In taking over operations of the Nashville Transit Company, the Metropolitan Government intends to embark on a long-term bus replacement and expansion program, along with route improvements and extensions of service. Most notably, better service to the elderly and underprivileged is a top priority item in their transit program. Also included is an extensive fleet modernization program consisting of the purchase of 100 new 45-passenger and 12 new 33 passenger buses and related equipment. Along with fare collection systems, 150 two-way radios and a radio base station, 12 service vehicles, and bus stop signs and shelters.

In making the \$4,459,300 grant, UMTA Administrator Frank C. Herringer noted that a continuing trend towards reduced service and higher fares since 1966 had resulted in an almost 50% decline in ridership by the end of 1972. "This trend towards diminishing use of mass transit facilities," Herringer said, "must be stopped if we expect to have cleaner air and less congestion in our cities."

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The local one-third share will be provided by the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County.

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For further information call the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043 or Mayor Beverly Briley, Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, 107 Courthouse, Nashville, Tennessee 37201. (UMTA Project No. TN-03-0006)

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