



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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Continuing Federal support for St. Petersburg's 10-year Master Plan of Public Transportation Improvement was assured today when Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe announced a fund reservation of \$103,333 to assist the Florida community in purchasing five 45-passenger diesel buses.

The new buses will replace seven 15-year old buses of smaller passenger capacity.

The grant announced today is the fourth in many years made to the St. Petersburg Municipal Transit System. Federal fund reservations for the city's Master Plan now total \$396,478.

"Improvement of public transit across the Nation is a high priority function of the Department of Transportation," Secretary Volpe said, "and it is especially satisfying to me to be an instrument of aiding St. Petersburg, a city in which it is estimated 34% of the population is 65-years old or older, a condition which makes the existence of effective mass transit a basic necessity."

Also to be purchased with the current grant are 100 bus stop benches and four bus stop shelters. The amount of the grant is limited to \$77,500 until completion of the planning program by the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, at which time St. Petersburg will be eligible for an additional \$25,833.

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The St. Petersburg Municipal Transit System is publicly owned and supervised by the City's Director of Transit. The system is currently averaging 7 million rides per year.

Project No. FLA-UTG-5

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