



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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Public transit improvements in Puerto Rico will be planned with the aid of a \$713,000 Federal grant announced today by Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe.

The grant was made by the Transportation Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration to the Puerto Rico Highway Authority with \$613,000 to be paid immediately and \$100,000 in 1970.

A local contribution of \$385,900 will be made to the technical study.

"Puerto Rico is in the enviable position of being able to direct its vigorous growth in an orderly manner by its recognition of the importance of public transit planning to economic development," Secretary Volpe said.

"This foresight should stem urban sprawl, thus stabilizing the cost of public services and aiding the preservation of the Island's natural beauty which is so necessary to its tourism business."

The short range objective of the study is the improvement of bus service, primarily that of the Metropolitan Bus Authority of San Juan which carries 65 million passengers annually.

The long range objective of the study is the planning of a rapid transit system consisting of local and express buses operating on public streets and a high speed system operating on an exclusive right-of-way.

A 27-mile rapid transit system was recommended as the result of a study completed in 1967.

That study gave priority to a 10.8 mile north-south line from Old San Juan through the Santurce commercial center to a point south of the University of Puerto Rico.

Also recommended by the 1967 study is a 16.2 mile line connecting Bayamon, a major employment center, with Carolina, east of San Juan.

Using the recommendations of the previous study as a beginning point, the rapid transit study will examine the available alternate technologies, consider preliminary design and engineering of a vehicle and system and prepare cost estimates for construction and operation.

Project No. PR-T9-1

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