



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

## URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

# NEWS

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The U.S. Department of Transportation today made a \$3.8 million grant to the Toledo (Ohio) Area Regional Transit Authority to assist TARTA purchase the Community Traction Company and 125 new air-conditioned transit buses.

The \$3,816,195 grant was made by the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration, (UMTA). An additional grant of \$1,272,065 will be made to TARTA by UMTA when full transit planning requirements for the Toledo urban area are met. This will bring the Federal share to \$5,088,260, or two-thirds of the total project cost of \$7,632,390, according to Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe.

The Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority was created specifically to take over the transit services of the privately-owned Community Traction Company. The Authority's operations will be supported by a new one-mill tax which Toledo voters approved with a 3-to-1 margin in a special election held last January 19th.

The tax levy will produce an estimated \$1.5 million a year during the next 10 years to provide public mass transit service in Toledo, Sylvania, Sylvania Township, Ottawa Hills, Spencer Township and Rossford. This money will cover the remaining one-third of the project costs.

In addition to acquiring the Community Traction Company and 125 new buses, TARTA will modernize bus maintenance facilities and construct 33 new bus stop shelters to further improve transit service in the Toledo metropolitan area.

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Secretary Volpe said the 125 new buses "will be the latest and best 45-passenger air-conditioned vehicles on the market . . . and all will be equipped with two-way radios for greater passenger safety and convenience. "

Of the total \$7.6 million project cost, about \$5 million will be spent for the new buses and nearly \$2 million will be used to purchase the tangible assets of the Community Traction Company, according to UMTA Administrator Carlos C. Villarreal.

"This grant is part of our overall program to upgrade and expand existing transit systems across the nation," Administrator Villarreal said.

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For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043, or: Mr. Abe A. Haddad, President, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority, 826 Spitzer Building, Toledo, Ohio 43604

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