



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

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The U.S. Department of Transportation today made a grant of \$312,037 to Coral Gables, Florida, to help the city purchase 13 air-conditioned diesel transit buses.

The grant, made by the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration, (UMTA), will pay half the cost of purchasing the new 45-passenger, air suspension buses. An additional UMTA grant of \$104,013 will be made to Coral Gables after the city completes its regional transportation planning requirements. This will bring the Federal share to \$416,050, or two-thirds of the total project cost.

Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe said that "today's grant will provide Coral Gables with a 100-percent modern, air-conditioned, air-suspension bus fleet." The grant also will allow the city to buy an automatic bus wash rack and related maintenance equipment.

In 1965, UMTA paid half the cost of 20 air-conditioned buses for Coral Gables. The purchase of the 13 new buses covered by today's grant will allow the retirement of all remaining non-air-conditioned, steel spring suspension buses which have been serving the city from 16 to 22 years, according to UMTA Administrator Carlos C. Villarreal. Some of the older vehicles will continue to be used for school bus routes.

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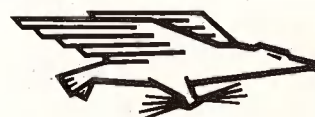
For further information, contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043, or, Mr. L. W. Robinson, Jr., City Manager, City of Coral Gables, P. O. Drawer 1549, Coral Gables, Florida 33134.

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