



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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The U. S. Department of Transportation today made a grant of \$708,635 to the Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District of Oakland, California, to help AC Transit purchase 30 new air-conditioned buses.

The grant, made by the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration, (UMTA), will cover half the cost of the \$1.4 million project. An additional UMTA grant of \$236,211 will be made to AC when regional transit planning requirements are met, bringing the Federal share to two-thirds of the total project cost. Local contributions from AC Transit will cover the remaining one-third.

Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe said that "the 30 new air-conditioned, 51-passenger diesel buses will be the latest and best available."

AC Transit furnishes local and express bus service to 11 cities and communities in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties on the east side of San Francisco Bay, serving a population of about one million persons. The transit system also links East Bay communities with San Francisco, via the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge.

Currently, AC Transit operates about 700 buses over more than 1,200 route miles. It is one of the very few major transit systems in the United States which has shown a gradual but steady increase in ridership, with more than 52 million riders today as compared with 47 million in 1961. Most American mass transit companies have experienced a steady decline in passengers since the 1950's.

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Administrator Carlos C. Villarreal of UMTA praised AC Transit's increased ridership, saying "it is attributable to improvements by AC Transit in their equipment and services, along with their vigorous promotional and advertising efforts."

The addition of 30 new buses to the AC fleet will help provide feeder bus service to many rapid transit stations on San Francisco's BART system, which is fast nearing completion.

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For further information, contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043, or:

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