



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

NEWS

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The U. S. Department of Transportation today made a grant of \$1.2 million to Madison, Wisconsin, to help the city purchase the assets of a privately-owned bus company and buy 36 new buses along with other related transit improvement equipment.

The \$1,215,500 grant, made by the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration, will cover 50-percent of city's cost of buying the 36 new air-conditioned diesel buses, half of them 53-passenger coaches and the other half 45-passenger vehicles.

The grant includes funds for the city to finish buying out the Madison Bus Company, purchase 72 new two-way radios for city buses and buy exhaust emission control units for 21 of the city's present buses. All 36 of the new coaches will have factory-installed emission control units.

Madison will be eligible for an additional UMTA grant of \$405,166 after the city completes its urban transit planning requirements, bringing the total Federal grant to \$1,620,666, or two-thirds of the total \$2,431,000 project cost. Local contributions will cover the remaining one-third.

The City of Madison took over public transit operations about a year ago after the private operator announced he was abandoning all services. The Madison "Metro" bus system is the major mass transportation carrier in the city and in the adjacent communities of Shorewood Hills, Maple Bluff and Monona.

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Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe said that "the new buses will allow Madison not only to continue public transit service but they will mean expanded and improved service in the urban area." The new vehicles are vital if mass transit is to continue in Madison, the Secretary said.

Administrator Carlos C. Villarreal of UMTA said "the new buses will be more reliable, cost less to maintain and provide a better, air-conditioned ride for mass transit users."

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

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