



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# NEWS

## URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20590

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The U. S. Department of Transportation today helped save another mass transit system, this one in Canton, Ohio.

The Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) made a grant of \$723,675 to the city to cover half the costs of buying out Canton's privately-owned bus company and purchasing 35 new buses for public service. The town's current transit carrier, Canton City Lines, Inc., plans to discontinue service on July 1, which would have left the city with little or no mass transit service.

Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe said that today's grant will provide half of the \$1 million Canton needs to buy the 35 new air-conditioned diesel buses and half of the nearly \$400,000 needed to buy out Canton City Lines. Other transit improvements, including repairs to the city's bus garage, will bring the total project cost to \$1,447,350, Secretary Volpe said.

An additional UMTA grant of \$241,225 will be available to Canton after the city completes its regional transit planning requirements. This will bring the Federal share of helping Canton to \$964,900, or two-thirds of the total project cost. Local contributions from the city will pay for the remaining one-third.

Administrator Carlos C. Villarreal of UMTA said that the grant to Canton "is part of our nationwide effort to help small and medium-sized communities and not just the big cities." During the past year, UMTA grants have helped save mass transit systems in at least a dozen similar sized cities.

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For further information, contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043, or Mayor Stanley A. Cmich, 218 Cleveland Avenue, S.W., Canton, Ohio 44702.

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