



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

NEWS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR RELEASE TUESDAY A.M.

June 8, 1971

DOT--12371

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The U. S. Department of Transportation today made a grant of \$1.4 million to the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Baltimore, Maryland, for continued planning of the city's new rail rapid transit system.

The technical study grant, made by the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), will cover two-thirds of the total \$2.1 million project cost. State funds of \$700,000, which were appropriated to MTA, will pay for the remaining one-third.

The grant is the fourth made to the MTA for continued planning of the proposed Baltimore Region Rapid Transit System. Today's grant covers the first segment of the 71-mile, six-leg system, which includes two priority legs -- a northwest line and southern line.

Baltimore's MTA will develop general plans, design criteria and do other necessary preliminary engineering tasks so that final design and construction of the first two legs can begin, according to Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe.

Actual construction work is scheduled to start during the summer of 1973, with an operational target date of September 1978, for the northwest and southern lines. Rail rapid service will be provided from Owings Mills, 14 miles northwest of Baltimore, to Marley, 14 miles to the south. The routes also will link downtown Baltimore with Friendship Airport.

The median strip of the proposed Northwest Expressway will be used as the rapid transit right-of-way for the final six miles of the northwest leg. The Federal Highway Administration and the Urban Mass Transportation Administration, the Maryland State Highway Department and the

Metropolitan Transit Authority are working together to achieve coordination for the combined operation.

Administrator Carlos C. Villarreal of UMTA said that cooperation among the concerned agencies "is a credit to the planning efforts of both transit and highway officials. "

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For further information, contact the UMTA Public Affairs Office at (202) 426-4043, or the Metropolitan Transit Authority, Baltimore, Maryland.

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