



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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UMTA 72-24
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The Department of Transportation has awarded a \$2,435,294 grant to the Little Rock, Arkansas, area to be used for the establishment of a regional mass transportation system, Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe announced today.

The funds, representing two-thirds of the total project cost, are provided through the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA). Secretary Volpe pointed out that "this is part of President Nixon's \$3.1-billion, five-year program to provide mass transportation capital assistance."

UMTA Administrator Carlos C. Villarreal observed that "public transit will now be preserved for the people of the Little Rock area. Metroplan - A Council of Local Governments, will administer this program locally."

In addition to acquiring the assets of Twin City Transit, Inc. (the private bus operator), the funds will provide for purchase of 44 new 45-passenger air-conditioned buses, new company facilities, and shelters and benches for riders.

Administrator Villarreal said, "I am pleased that Metroplan has certified that the new buses and facilities will incorporate ideas to make transit more accessible to the elderly and handicapped."

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"The project will result in continuance of mass transit in the Little Rock urban area, establishment of an area-wide system, and modernization of a worn-out bus fleet," Secretary Volpe said.

"The President has called upon us to write a mass transportation success story for the 1970's, and through projects such as this, we will meet his challenge," Administrator Villarreal added.

UMTA determined that the Little Rock area has a comprehensive transportation planning process underway. "The Nixon Administration is anxious to assist in guaranteeing the sound economic development of America's urban areas, and the Little Rock project is aimed at meeting that goal," Secretary Volpe said.

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For further information, contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs (202) 426-4043, or Mr. Jason Rouby, Executive Director, Metroplan - A Council of Local Governments, 509 Continental Boulevard, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201 (UMTA Project ARK-UTG-3).

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