



U.S. Department of
Transportation

News:

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DOT PLAN WOULD PROVIDE 2,000 BUSES FOR USE IN 1996 OLYMPICS IN ATLANTA

To provide easy access to the summer 1996 Olympic games in Atlanta, U.S. Secretary of Transportation Federico Peña and Federal Transit Administrator Gordon J. Linton today unveiled a unique plan to provide Atlanta with up to 2,000 buses from cities around the country.

Secretary Peña said, "The Administration is eager to be of assistance to the Olympic committee and we are pleased to help make these buses available as part of a showcase to demonstrate effective transit planning. People from all over the world who visit Atlanta will be riding in buses that come from American cities coast-to-coast. That sends everyone a message of American friendship, cooperation and pride in the Olympics."

Mass transit agencies in New York, Houston, Birmingham, Baltimore, New Orleans, St. Louis, Orlando, Philadelphia and the state of New Jersey, among others, already have pledged a total of more than 1,300 buses.

Linton said that the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has been working closely with the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games to make sure that special transportation needs for the 1996 Summer Olympic Games and the Paralympics Games are met.

To pay for round-trip delivery costs and preparation of the buses, including installation of communications equipment to provide maximum flexibility in scheduling, FTA is requesting an adjustment of funds within the agency's total FY 1995 budget level, now under consideration in the Congress.

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In a letter sent today to the appropriate senators, representatives and congressional committees, Linton said that a budget amendment will soon be submitted to use \$16 million from discretionary grants to support the 1996 games in Atlanta.

The buses will be clearly identified by their cities of origin, and they will be either new or in service less than three years.

According to FTA, parts of Atlanta will be closed to motor vehicle traffic and people will use the Metropolitan Atlanta Transit Authority (MARTA) trains and buses, and the borrowed buses, to travel to the various events. For the first time, tickets for specific Olympic events will automatically include payment for transit use.

It is expected that more than one half million visitors will be in Atlanta each day.

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**Federal Transit
Administration**

400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Official Business
Penalty for Private Use \$300

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