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UMTA ANNOUNCES \$1.5 MILLION GRANT TO READING TRANSIT

Hershey, Pa. -- Brian W. Clymer, Administrator of the Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), has announced a federal grant of \$1.5 million to the Berks Area Reading Transportation Authority (BARTA).

"These funds will help BARTA purchase a dozen 35-foot, lift-equipped diesel buses, and \$165,000 of the grant will help pay for a 35-foot lift-equipped vehicle fueled by compressed natural gas," Clymer said.

The funds will also be used for the purchase of spare parts for the new vehicles and for 14 two-way radios, one for each bus plus one spare.

Clymer praised BARTA for providing a local match in excess of the 25 percent minimum required by statute. "Reading, like many other communities, is responding positively to changing political and economic realities," he said. "They're supplementing a basic and stable level of federal transportation assistance with the non-federal dollars they need to get the job done."

The new buses will replace 13 which have been in transit service since 1975 and have reached the end of their useful life. Delivery of the new vehicles is expected by December 1991.

Clymer made the announcement in Hershey at the 15th Annual Public Transit Seminar, sponsored jointly by the Pennsylvania Association of Municipal Transportation Authorities and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.

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