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JACKSONVILLE GETS DOT BUS GRANT

Urban Mass Transportation Administrator Arthur E. Teele, Jr., today announced a \$620,000 grant to the Jacksonville Transportation Authority, to aid in the purchase of five advanced design transit buses and related equipment.

"Without Federal capital assistance, it would be virtually impossible for communities to meet large financial demands that capital projects require," Teele said.

The grant announced today is in addition to previous awards of \$8,759,936 for several projects to improve the area's transit system. Included is the construction of a 100,000 square foot transit facility to accommodate 350 buses.

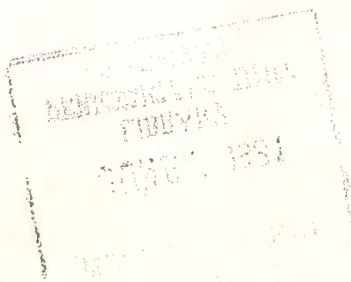
Today's grant will assist in the purchase of five of 14 new buses. The buses seat approximately 35 passengers, and will be equipped with hydraulic lifts to provide access for elderly and handicapped persons.

The transit authority operates a fleet of 196 buses. The five buses to be purchased under today's grant are replacements for 12-year and older buses that are in need of repair.

"Capital assistance projects such as this allow for the orderly replacement of vehicles which might otherwise be financially difficult given the constraints of many local budgets," Teele said.

Teele commended local officials for their efforts to improve the service and efficiency of their transit system.

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