



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20591

FAA Library

FOR RELEASE WEDNESDAY
November 27, 1968

DEC 3 1968

DOT - 13868
963 - 5105

Acquisitions
Section Hq 610A

The City of Chattanooga, Tennessee, where transit ridership in the past seven years has dropped 55%, will examine its transit problems with the help of a \$24,840 technical study grant from the Department of Transportation.

The grant, made by DOT's Urban Mass Transportation Administration, will finance two-thirds of the \$37,320 cost of a 21-week study. The city's study will evaluate transit service and operation in Chattanooga and adjacent areas in Hamilton County, Tennessee and Walker County, Georgia.

Transit service in the area is now provided by Southern Coach Lines which has expressed a desire to terminate service. From 1960 to 1967 transit ridership has dropped 55.2% as compared with 11.8% for the United States as a whole. This decline is due, in part, to substantial competition from jitney service in the Chattanooga area. Eighty-nine full-time and 30 part-time jitanes operate on a fixed 8-mile route adjacent to the central business district and serve the low-income people who would otherwise use the transit system.

The technical study will consider alternate forms of ownership and operation and will formulate a transit development plan to serve continuing community needs for public transportation service.

For further information: Honorable Ralph Kelly
Mayor, City of Chattanooga
Room 100, Municipal Building
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402

Project No. TENN-T9-1

####