



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# NEWS

## URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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A subscription bus service called "Maxicab" using flexible schedules and routes providing specialized peak-hour work-trip transportation has received an additional Department of Transportation grant.

Transportation Secretary John A. Volpe announced the award of a \$482,817 grant to the Flint Transportation Authority for continuation of its "Maxicab" experiment until January 15, 1971. The grant came from DOT's Urban Mass Transportation Administration. The announcement was made in Washington at a meeting of Secretary Volpe, Carlos C. Villarreal, Administrator of the Urban Mass Transportation Administration, the Mayor and other Flint community and business leaders.

In announcing the grant, Secretary Volpe said, "I sent my Administrator, Carlos Villarreal, to Flint to personally inspect and evaluate this project. After careful consideration and having received assurances that the City of Flint will work to insure the successful operation of its bus system, we have elected to proceed with this grant."

The Secretary went on to say, "Public transportation is essential to all our cities. It is especially important to the city of Flint where so many of its people not only own cars but build them. The city officials and people of Flint have given us their assurance they will manage and direct this project to insure the future of good, effective public transit in their city. There will be check points during the term of this grant which will help us to insure performance and enable us to carefully evaluate results obtained."

Maxicab utilizes a special group of buses over routes adjusted according to demand. Maxicab picks up and delivers specifically identified passengers at designated points, delivers them to their destination and then provides return service.

The demonstration was undertaken as a "save-the-bus" experiment when Flint's regular bus line faced collapse from declining service and patronage.

Carlos Villarreal said "The Flint City Commission has agreed to take positive action to insure the operation of good public transportation in Flint. They are resolved to improve the system's management and to institute a vigorous program to increase ridership on Maxicab."

"While in Flint inspecting the Maxicab operation," Mr. Villarreal said, "it became clear to me that new experimental type bus service can only be successful if the city government, the transit management and the people of Flint are willing to take the necessary steps, including making up their operating deficit so as to insure efficient, responsible direction of their bus company."

Mr. Villarreal went on to say "The Flint government, business and community leadership has impressed me with their willingness to join forces to insure continued bus service for the non-drivers and inner-city residents of Flint."

Secretary Volpe and Mr. Villarreal made their remarks at a Department of Transportation meeting with Mayor Donald Cronin, City Manager Thomas Kay, Harding Mott, President of the Mott Foundation, Saul Siegel, Executive Director of the Greater Flint Downtown Corporation and Eugene Kuthie of the American Academy of Transportation, and members of the Urban Mass Transportation Administration staff.

"Maxicab is a demonstration project. We don't expect all demonstrations and other experiments with new types of service to be successful. But we do expect good business management and a high order of community effort to be part of our public transportation research grant projects.

"Flint needs a good bus system. The Department of Transportation is pleased to see all elements of the Flint community now committed to the success of this project including putting Flint transit on a sound operational basis," Mr. Villarreal said.

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