DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | NEWS
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Secertary of Transportation John A. Volpe today announced a supplemental grant of $167,505 to Kent State University at Kent, Ohio, to continue collecting computerized operating data for bus systems.

The project began in March 1967, and was funded by a grant of $342,539 from the Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration.

The goal of the project is the development of a computerized management information and control system to enable bus systems to offer greater and more comprehensive service at less cost.

"Continuation of this demonstration project will give us better insight into how urban bus systems may best serve transportation needs. Newer forms of public transit are coming, but for most communities public transportation will remain largely a job for bus companies. Projects like this will make bus companies more efficient and better able to improve service," Secretary Volpe said.

"Specifically, the grant will make possible installation of the system on a test basis in the bus systems of Oakland, California, and Dallas. It will cover additional costs of developing, testing and debugging the computerized management information and control system, and will enable translation of collection data into several 'languages' compatible with different computer systems," said Carlos C. Villarreal, UMTA Administrator.

The system is being tested under operating conditions on Kent State's campus bus system. Several generations of collections devices were built and are used by the university bus line. Campus operation also tests feasibility of the project for small city bus lines.

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The original project called for designs of hardware suitable for automatic data collection, designs of printed forms suitable for bus systems not desiring the computer hardware, and establishment of computer programs suitable for manipulation of the data.

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