



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION WASHINGTON, D. C. 20590

FOR RELEASE FRIDAY 3:00 P.M.
January 9, 1970

DOT -- 0970
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Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe today announced a \$1,186,750 grant to help the Chicago Transit Authority change its present bus fare collection system to a high-security, exact fare system.

"The purpose of the new system," Secretary Volpe said, "is to eliminate robberies of buses and regain public confidence in the safety of bus transit.

"In 1968," Secretary Volpe said, "746 CTA bus drivers were held up and one passenger was slain during a robbery. In 1969, CTA averaged 25 robberies a week.

"It's unfortunate that crime conditions in many of our cities have reached a point where we must resort to exact fare collection systems in order to insure safety for bus operators and passengers."

The Federal grant, made by the Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration, represents one-half of the cost of converting the collection system.

The new system will keep fares under locked conditions from the time of deposit until fare boxes reach a central receiving depot.

UMTA Administrator Carlos C. Villarreal said that "work is continually going on at Federal and local levels to improve urban transit. When we finally reach our goals -- when our city transit systems are viable and in balance -- then our cities will be well along the way toward eliminating conditions that breed crime."

Project No. ILL-UTG-8

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