



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

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Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe has announced a \$781,826 Federal grant to assist the San Diego (California) Transit Corporation in the construction of an administration and maintenance building and for other facility improvements.

The Department of Transportation grant also provides for assistance in the purchase of 210 two-way radios for buses, an automatic bus washer and office furniture and equipment.

In announcing the grant, Secretary Volpe said, "San Diego Transit has been increasing its ridership in recent years. It has increased and improved its service. We are pleased to be able to furnish additional funds for a building, for radios and other facilities to still further modernize San Diego Transit."

The grant was made by the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA). The Federal contribution represents one-half the total project cost of \$1,563,652. An additional grant of \$260,608 will be available to the corporation upon completion of a regional transportation planning program.

UMTA Administrator Carlos C. Villarreal said, "The great majority of all transit riders ride on buses. Even in the largest cities,

rail rapid transit still only carries a small portion of daily transit commuters. San Diego Transit is a bus system working to further improve its equipment utilization, management, and service. We are glad to be able to continue to provide funds for its further modernization."

The Administrator added, "More and more cities are coming to realize the importance of their bus company. Despite new systems and new technologies, the fact remains that bus systems continue to be the dominant means of public urban transportation. They offer the ideal combination of relative high capacity and flexibility.

Villarreal said, "Most of our grants have been for renovations and improvements of existing bus systems. This is the point. A well managed, attractive and reliable bus system is the best present answer to San Diego's present needs. We have every reason to believe that San Diego Transit will continue to offer even better service as future local transit planning is completed and implemented and longer range systems and needs are identified and financing becomes available.

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