



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

# NEWS

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The U. S. Department of Transportation today made a technical study grant of \$150,000 to the Puerto Rico Planning Board for completion of the Island's mass transportation plan.

The grant, made by the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration, also will include funds to determine the feasibility of a unique waterway mass transit system.

When initiated by the Governor of Puerto Rico in August 1970, the study was completely funded by the Government of Puerto Rico. However, the funding was reallocated when cut backs were made in all sectors of the Island's budget to finance flood disaster programs. Today's grant will allow Federal funds to pay for two-thirds of the \$225,000 project, with local funds covering the remaining one-third.

In addition to providing preliminary planning for Puerto Rico's mass transportation system, the technical study grant will be integrated with a mass transit system being planned for the San Juan Metropolitan Area. The study also will integrate the island-wide system in the cities of Ponce and Mayaguez; explore the development of a prototype new settlement transportation system and carry out an acceptability survey which will assist in the design of the system itself.

A unique feature of this project is the waterway study, according to Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe.

"The feasibility of employing a waterway system as a public transit link across the Bay of San Juan from Catano to San Juan or to Santurce will be explored in an attempt to utilize the intra-city waterways of the San Juan Metropolitan area," Mr. Volpe said.

The Secretary added that the technical study also will be used as a guide by the Puerto Rico Planning Board in making decisions regarding new

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housing and business developments on the Island.

Administrator Carlos C. Villarreal of the Urban Mass Transportation Administration said that "Puerto Rico, because it is an island, is in effect a 'closed-system' which presents a striking opportunity to carefully plan mass transit right along with new town development." Mr. Villarreal pointed out that, of the total 2,200,000 acres of land which make up the Island, only 810,000 are suitable for development.

"This study will provide the Governor of Puerto Rico with information essential to the orderly development of Puerto Rico's scarce land resources," Mr. Villarreal said.

For further information, contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043, or:

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