



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

# NEWS

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Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe today announced a \$19.7 million grant to the Public Utilities Commission of San Francisco for new construction and modernization of the city's streetcar and rail mass transit system.

The grant, made by the Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), includes funds for reconstructing and rehabilitating the city's Municipal Railway (Muni) surface rail car fleet and modernizing San Francisco's famed cable car system.

The PUC of the City and County of San Francisco will receive \$19,718,000 in Federal UMTA funds, Secretary Volpe said. This will cover two-thirds of the nearly \$30 million improvement project costs, with the remaining one-third -- \$9.8 million -- to be provided by the City and County of San Francisco, the Secretary added.

Last April, UMTA gave the PUC \$19.3 million to help Muni modernize and replace its bus and commuter rail fleet. The transit system is using those funds to buy 400 new radio-equipped buses, 78 rail cars, 50 small transit buses and 210 electric trolley buses.

Today's \$19.7 grant will allow Muni to:

- \* Buy three new cable cars and rebuild seven others.
- \* Extend a present cable car line to historic Fisherman's Wharf.
- \* Improve the lighting and braking systems on cable cars.



U.S. INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORTATION EXPOSITION  
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- \* Reconstruct and rerail present cable car and surface rail lines.
- \* Buy safety, maintenance and fare collection equipment.
- \* Provide a new rail connection between Muni's "L" and "N" lines.
- \* Install a Vehicle Location Monitoring System.

The grant also provides funds for improving Muni's motor coach system, including construction of new passenger waiting shelters.

Administrator Carlos C. Villarreal of UMTA said the grant also will allow Muni to "provide facilities urgently needed for proper maintenance and operation of the new vehicles it is currently buying under the April grant.

"We hope that further modernization of the Muni system will attract even more transit riders," Administrator Villarreal said.

Per capita transit usage in San Francisco is among the highest in the nation -- second only to New York and considerably above Chicago and Philadelphia. Nine out of ten city residents live within two blocks of a Muni route. In addition, the system has one of the lowest transit fares in the country -- 25 cents.

"Although the Muni system operates on a locally-financed deficit, downtown merchants and property owners have found the system preferable both financially and environmentally to wider streets and freeways," Secretary Volpe commented.

"Muni transports more than a half-million passengers," the Secretary said, "many of them school children, on an average single weekday over 61 different routes, using more than 800 mass transit vehicles during the evening rush-hour. Nearly 37 percent of the city's workers use public transit."

In addition to helping Muni completely modernize its fleet and operations, the Department of Transportation through UMTA has provide \$145 million as the Federal share of the Bay Area Rapid Transit District's new \$1.3 billion subway and rail system. The 75-mile BART system is

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nearing completion in the three Bay Area counties of San Francisco, Contra Costa and Alameda. BART is the first major new rail transit undertaking in America since 1907.

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For further information, contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043 or, Mr. John D. Crowley, General Manager of Public Utilities, Public Utilities Commission, City and County of San Francisco, 287 City Hall, San Francisco, California 94102.

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