



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe today announced a grant of \$46,284 to the Oregon State Department of Transportation to study the feasibility of using idle school buses for public transportation.

The Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) grant will examine the use of school buses as the basis of a public transportation system for Klamath Falls, Oregon. Routes will be structured to benefit the elderly, low-income and other persons of this small urban area without adequate means of transportation.

"Through this test, we will explore all alternatives to providing small urban areas with low cost public transportation by using available equipment instead of purchasing new equipment," Secretary Volpe said. "At the end of this 18-month test, we will also have needed information on the demand for and the establishment of public transportation systems in small urban areas."

Klamath Falls has a population of 50,000 and has had no public transportation since 1960. This new service will provide mobility for persons not having access to personal transportation. The routing will make available service within a reasonable walking distance of approximately 80 or 90 percent of the area's residents. Certain areas of residential concentrations, such as housing facilities for the elderly, will be served directly.

The test will provide service to those wishing to attend church services on Sundays, as well as the regular daily trips. It will also include weekly transportation service between Klamath Falls and Chiloquin, a small rural town 26 miles away. Chiloquin residents are currently without medical and pharmaceutical services but with the new service, residents will be able to travel to Klamath Falls for medical and dental appointments as well as for educational and recreational purposes.

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



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