



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# NEWS

## URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20590

FOR RELEASE FRIDAY P.M.  
March 31, 1972

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Phone: (202-426-4043)

The U.S. Department of Transportation today awarded three contracts totaling \$3 million to build a battery of computer programs for planning urban mass transit systems.

All three contracts were made by the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA). "They are part of President Richard Nixon's \$3.1 billion, five-year program to save, upgrade and develop new mass transit systems across the Nation," according to Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe.

The first contract--for \$1 million--is with the Planning Research Corporation of McLean, Virginia. Over the next three years, the firm will improve existing computer techniques used in current transportation planning. The first of the improvements will be delivered within a year, Secretary Volpe said.

A second contract--for \$900,000--went to Peat, Marwick, Mitchell and Company of Washington, D.C., who will execute a long-range, three-year research and development project to devise entirely new and better techniques for transportation planning. This project will exploit to the greatest extent possible the recent advances in computer equipment, the Secretary said.

The third contract--for \$1,100,000--retains the TRW Systems Group of Redondo, California, to design, execute and document full-scale pilot tests of all the programs the two other contractors deliver during the three-year course of the contracts.

Administrator Carlos C. Villarreal of UMTA said that "these three contracts should greatly help to ease today's urban transportation planning crisis."



U.S. INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORTATION EXPOSITION  
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"These new computer programs will be turned over to "any local planning agency requesting them," Administrator Villarreal said. "This will allow the transportation planner to simulate the expected effects of any proposed multimode transportation system in any city."

In this way, the costs and benefits of alternative proposals can be forecast, tested, evaluated and compared, the Administrator said. The search for an optional solution to a city's transportation problem will be greatly accelerated, Mr. Villarreal added.

Secretary Volpe said that UMTA also will provide technical and financial assistance to acquaint cities with the computer programs. Heretofore, only highway planning has received such support, the Secretary said.

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For further information, contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043, or the individual contractor. Planning Research Corporation is located at 7600 Old Springhouse Road, McLean, Virginia 22101. Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co. are at 1025 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. And TRW Systems Group is at One Space Park, Redondo Beach, California 90278. (DOT Contracts DOT-UT-20021, 20020 and 20019 respectively.)

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