



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# NEWS

## URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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UMTA 73-25  
Phone (202) 426-4043

Secretary of Transportation Claude S. Brinegar today announced a \$19 million grant to the Public Utilities Commission of the City and County of San Francisco to enable the City's Municipal Railway (MUNI) to completely rebuild its electrical system for subway/surface rail cars and trackless trolley coaches.

The \$19,766,666 grant, made by the Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), will be used to build nine new substations and to upgrade an additional eight substations, the oldest of which was constructed in 1900. Also included will be an entirely new system of power feeders and supervisory control and maintenance telephone systems.

In making the grant, UMTA Administrator Frank C. Herringer noted that the higher power requirements of new street cars authorized under a previous grant, along with more than 68 instances of power-failure during the past two years, make upgrading of the power system imperative for dependable operation of MUNI's streetcar and trolley coach lines. Herringer said: "This is the first real effort to advance light rail development in the U.S. since the 1930's. We only hope it will encourage other cities to consider light rail systems as a possible transportation alternative."

In making his announcement, Secretary Brinegar observed that the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (PUC) had received almost \$67.8 million since April 1971, representing the Federal two-thirds share

of helping the city upgrade its entire street transit system. The local one-third share is being provided by the City and County of San Francisco.

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For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043, or Mr. John Crowley, General Manager of Public Utilities, City Hall, San Francisco, California. (UMTA Project No. CA-03-0056)

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