



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20590

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UMTA 73-29
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Secretary of Transportation Claude S. Brinegar today announced a \$419,066 grant to the Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District (MTD) in Champaign, Illinois, for the acquisition of land and the construction of maintenance, administration, and service facilities.

The grant, made by the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), will provide two-thirds of the funds needed to complete MTD's capital improvement program. The remaining one-third local share will be provided by a grant from the State of Illinois under its State Transportation Bond Issue.

In announcing the grant, Secretary Brinegar observed that particular attention had been accorded the special needs of the elderly and handicapped in both route selection and scheduling. The Secretary said this was a notable step towards President Nixon's programs: "to help older Americans play a full, continuing role... in America."

UMTA Administrator Frank C. Herringer noted that a previous grant, approved in May 1971, aided MTD in the purchase of 15 new 45 passenger buses. Administrator Herringer pointed out that since the delivery of these buses, annual ridership has increased from 346,000 in 1970 to an impressive high of 914,000 in 1972. "This represents a 250% increase and clearly indicates what a newer, more reliable, and better maintained fleet can accomplish in the community it serves," Herringer said.

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For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043, or Mr. Karl D. Tauber, Chairman, Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District, 501 North Fifth Street, Champaign, Illinois 61802. (UMTA Project No. IL-03-0028)

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