



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

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UMTA 73-30
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Secretary of Transportation Claude S. Brinegar today announced a grant of \$333,333 to the Central New York Regional Transportation Authority (CNYRTA) to develop and evaluate a demand-activated transit service to meet the special mobility needs of the elderly and disabled in the City of Syracuse and Onondaga County, New York.

The grant will be administered by the Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), and will be used to determine the possible travel demands of almost 85,000 elderly and handicapped residents in the area, many of whom are completely transit-dependent. The program will provide four specially equipped small buses (14 to 16 passengers) for a well-publicized, high-level service geared to particular needs of the elderly or those with physical disabilities who find it difficult to use regular public transit.

Several methods of "demand-response" systems will be used. These include instant telephone response, such as a taxi service, regular pre-determined subscription service and a two-day reservation-in-advance service. UMTA Administrator Frank C. Herringer noted that a Project Advisory Committee, comprised of representatives of the elderly and handicapped, would help to establish the major guidelines for the program.

CNYRTA's transit operating subsidiary, CNY Centro, Inc., will be responsible for operating the system, including scheduling, dispatching, routing and maintenance. Along with regularly scheduled work and school trips, medical and social trips will be available on a 7-day week basis throughout the entire urban area. Provisions will be made for continuing the service beyond the demonstration period using local financial resources.

In announcing the grant, Secretary Brinegar observed that this was an example of President Nixon's commitment "to end the gap that separates far too many older Americans from the mainstream of American life."

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For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043, or Central New York Regional Transportation Planning Authority, Room 508 Midtown Plaza, Syracuse, New York 13210. (UMTA Project No. NY-06-0041)

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