



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR RELEASE FRIDAY
May 4, 1973

UMTA 73-32
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Secretary of Transportation Claude S. Brinegar today announced a grant of \$198,533 to the City of Kalamazoo, Michigan for the purchase of two new 31-35 passenger buses with special equipment for serving the elderly and handicapped throughout the area.

The two-thirds funding under this Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), grant will also help purchase 43 two-way radios and 45 bus-stop shelters.

In announcing the grant, Secretary Brinegar noted that this was another example of President Nixon's commitment to older Americans. "Government's actions on behalf of older Americans" the President said, "must assist senior citizens so that they can remain active and involved, in ways of their own choosing." Secretary Brinegar went on to say that this policy is much in evidence with Kalamazoo's inauguration of an exclusive elderly and handicapped service as an adjunct to its regular operations.

UMTA Administrator Frank C. Herringer observed that this project represented a real commitment on the part of the community to go beyond the simple public acquisition and operation of transit facilities. "It is our policy," Herringer added, "to fund programs that address the needs of the elderly and handicapped second in priority only to a grant to prevent a complete cessation of service."

The local one-third share for the project will be provided by the City of Kalamazoo and a mass transit grant from the State of Michigan.

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For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043, or Mr. James Caplinger, City Manager, City of Kalamazoo, City Hall, 241 West South Street, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49006. (UMTA Project No. MI-03-0022)

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