



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR RELEASE WEDNESDAY
May 23, 1973

UMTA 73-34
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Secretary of Transportation Claude S. Brinegar today announced a grant of \$7.7 million to the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority (NFTA), Buffalo, New York, to assist in the acquisition of seven of the two-county region's bus companies and to purchase new equipment for mass transit service in the Buffalo area.

The \$7,669,860 grant from the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), will help NFTA unify mass transit operations in a district composed of Erie and Niagara Counties, including the City of Buffalo. The current system requires 558 buses on 60 routes covering 977 route miles. When the seven companies are acquired, immediate scheduling and routing improvements will be made to eliminate duplication and provide better service throughout the entire area. The grant also provides for the purchase of 12 new 31-35 passenger buses and related equipment, 568 radios, more than 6000 bus stop signs, and a number of bus facility improvements.

In announcing the grant, Secretary Brinegar noted that this project is based on the results of a mass transit study conducted by NFTA under an UMTA technical studies grant. "It is this kind of planning on a local level," the Secretary said, "that brings the kind of results President Nixon had in mind when he said: 'The Federal role in Transportation is significant but limited. The primary responsibilities rest with the States, local governments and the private sector, while the Federal Government provides financial support.'" Secretary Brinegar went on to say that the careful planning and judicious implementation demonstrated that the local officials in Niagara Frontier area understand their local transit needs and are prepared to solve them.

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UMTA Administrator Frank C. Herringer observed that the unified system would serve six cities, 37 towns, and 21 villages with a combined population of more than 1.3 million, and was expected to reverse the trend of rising fares and declining ridership by improving the quality of service.

The local one-third share will be provided by the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority using funds supplied by the State of New York.

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For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043, or the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority, Statler Hilton Hotel, Buffalo, New York. (UMTA Project No. NY-03-0047)

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