



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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U. S. Secretary of Transportation Claude S. Brinegar today announced an Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) grant of \$1,172,000 to the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART) to assist in the construction of an entrance to Oakland City Center Redevelopment Project. Construction of the specially designed 66-foot wide entrance will include the installation of escalators, additional fare equipment and an elevator for use by the handicapped.

"Adequate transportation facilities are vital to the economic growth of a community," Secretary Brinegar said. "The new entrance is an essential element of Oakland's City Center Redevelopment Project," the Secretary added. Accessibility of BART's fast, convenient mass transit service to the City Center enhances the central business district and provides shoppers and employees a highly desirable alternative to the private automobile.

In an effort to revitalize its declining central business district, the City of Oakland has initiated the Oakland City Center 15 block redevelopment program. The project, with one million feet of new office space and commercial facilities is expected to attract about 34,000 persons daily.

UMTA Administrator Frank C. Herringer pointed out that the new entrance will provide convenient and direct access to the Center. Stairways will be replaced with reversible escalator service, and the elevator installed for use by the

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elderly and handicapped will connect the street level to the concourse level of the 12th Street Station. An elevator from the concourse level to the train loading platforms is presently in use.

"Installation of elevators in addition to escalators is in keeping with the President's goals and BART's commitment to make mass transit service totally accessible to the elderly and handicapped," Administrator Herringer said.

The one-fifth local share of the project cost is being provided by the Bay Area Rapid Transit District and the Oakland Redevelopment Agency.

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For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043 or Mr. B.R. Stokes, General Manager, Bay Area Rapid Transit District, 800 Madison Street, Oakland, California 94607. (UMTA Project No. CA-03-0083)

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