



**DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION**

NEWS

**URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION
ADMINISTRATION**

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UMTA 51-74
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U. S. Secretary of Transportation Claude S. Brinegar today announced an Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) grant of \$388,128 to the city of Burlington, Iowa, to assist in the acquisition of the privately owned Burlington Transit Lines, Inc. (BTL). The grant also provides funds for the purchase of 7 new buses and an automatic bus washer, extensive renovation of the existing maintenance facility, and the installation of 6 bus stop shelters.

In announcing the award, Secretary Brinegar noted that, "in Burlington, like many other cities around the country, a precipitous drop in ridership

and revenues has made private ownership extremely difficult." UMTA's capital grant program has allowed many American communities to maintain mass transit service that would have otherwise been abandoned. Burlington is the 121st city for which public ownership has been made possible under the UMTA program. The project goals include increased peak hour service, better maintenance and greater reliability. The service improvements are expected to reverse the downward trend in ridership.

UMTA Administrator Frank C. Herringer pointed out that an UMTA funded technical study recommended public ownership of BTS and outlined other capital expenditures to improved service.

The local one-fifth share is being provided by the City of Burlington.

For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043 or Mr. Ken Vanderslice, City Manager, City of Burlington, Burlington, Iowa 52601 (UMTA Project No. IA-03-0013)