



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR RELEASE THURSDAY
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UMTA 52-74
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U. S. Secretary of Transportation Claude S. Brinegar today announced an Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) grant of \$634,872 to the Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District (SBMTD) for the purchase of ten, 45-passenger, nine, 17 to 24-passenger buses, a two-way radio system, and related equipment. Since 1969, ridership has been steadily increasing in the Santa Barbara area and a need for improved and expanded service is essential.

In announcing the grant, Secretary Brinegar commented that "Federal policy dictates financial assistance for local operators in providing vitally needed urban transit service." SBMTD is the principal mass transportation carrier in the urban Santa Barbara area.

UMTA Administrator Frank C. Herringer pointed out that the new vehicles will allow service extensions into the Isla Vista and Carpinteria communities as well as significant improvement in central business district operations. The two-way radio system will increase the effectiveness of the fleet by allowing for instant notification of service interruptions and by providing passengers with current information on transfer connections.

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The local one-fifth share of the project cost is being provided by the Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District.

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For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043 or Mr. W. Robert Yaco, General Manager, SBMTD, 550 E. Costa Street, P. O. Box 355, Santa Barbara, California 93102 (UMTA Project No. CA-03-0084)

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