



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR RELEASE TUESDAY
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UMTA 54-74
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U. S. Secretary of Transportation Claude S. Brinegar today announced a \$1,474,892 Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) grant to the City of San Diego, California, to assist in the purchase of twenty-five 49-53 passenger, air-conditioned, diesel transit buses, destination and bus stop signs, bus shelters, environmental improvement equipment and other related bus equipment. In addition, a storeroom, overhaul shop and body shop will be remodeled.

"Many cities are experiencing a need to increase the capacity of their mass transit facilities," Secretary Brinegar said. "Energy shortages and environmental concerns are ever-increasing factors in our cities' surge to improve public transportation," the Secretary added. San Diego instituted a 25¢ fare and other initiatives to increase the demand for public transportation in September, 1972. As a result, ridership has increased significantly.

UMTA Administrator Frank C. Herringer noted that an UMTA capital grant to the City in 1967 aided in the acquisition of the privately owned San Diego Transit System, and the implementation of service improvements. Although ridership has fluctuated in the interim years, an overall increase from 17.1 million passengers in 1967 to 25.8 million in 1973 has resulted.

The 25 new coaches will be used to improve service on 11 selected routes, and are expected to result in further ridership

increases. In addition, the entire fleet will be converted to the 1975 Environmental Protection Agency pollution standards by the addition of "c" type fuel injectors on the older buses.

In addition to the \$1.4 million bus grant the Secretary also announced a supplementary grant of \$69,996 for implementation of a Vehicle Scheduling and Driver Run Cutting Computer Program (RUCUS) package. This grant supplements a previous award of \$2,031,420 and will enable the San Diego Transit Corporation to better utilize manpower and equipment through improved scheduling. The RUCUS package was developed through UMTA's Research and Development program and San Diego is the first city to implement the system under UMTA's capital grant program.

The one-fifth local share of the bus project cost is being provided by the City of San Diego and of the RUCUS project by the San Diego Transit Corporation.

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For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043 or Mr. Kimball H. Moore, City Manager, City Administration Building, 202 C. Street, San Diego, California 92101 (UMTA Project No. CA-03-0081, bus project), or Mr. Jim Lester, City Coordinator for Intergovernmental Relations, 202 C. Street, San Diego, California 92101 (UMTA Project No. CA-03-0071-01. RUCUS project).

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