



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

## URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

# NEWS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR RELEASE FRIDAY  
May 3, 1974

UMTA 63-74  
(202) 426-4043

U. S. Secretary of Transportation Claude S.

Brinegar today announced the award of two Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) grants totaling \$5,510,288 to the Port Authority of Allegheny County (PAT) of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to assist in the purchase of 85 new transit buses varying in size from 31-35 passenger to 49-51 passenger capacity. In addition the project includes the purchase of a fringe parking lot, 1100 registering locked fare vaults, a computer and accessory equipment, other transit related equipment and the rehabilitation of 25 trolley cars.

- More -

Pittsburgh's system, like transit systems in most major cities was on a severe downward trend in ridership. "I am pleased to note the trend now has been reversed," Secretary Brinegar said.

A ridership increase was experienced by PAT in 1973 for the first time in several years. These projects represent Phase IV of PAT's long range capital improvement program.

UMTA Administrator, Frank C. Herringer noted that Federal funding for the long range improvements of the Pittsburgh system under the urban mass transportation program now totals over \$33 million. Previous improvements include the construction of facilities for five modern operating divisions, one centrally located main shop and administration building and modernization of most of the revenue fleet and service vehicles.

The Phase IV program has been designed to provide for increased efficiency in the administration of the system, additional comfort and convenience for PAT patrons, with the goal of increasing ridership and continuation of the systematic replacement of the remainder of PAT's revenue fleet.

PAT participates in a Senior Citizen program which is financed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. During off-peak hours, persons 65 years of age and older can ride free on the system. Since the program began in July, 1973, elderly ridership has increased steadily.

The one-fifth local share of the total project cost is being provided by the State of Pennsylvania and the Port Authority of Allegheny County.

For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043 or Mr. John T. Mauro, Executive Director, Port Authority of Allegheny County, Beaver and Island Avenues, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15233 (UMTA Project No.'s PA-03-0041 and PA-03-0041-01).

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