



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# NEWS

## URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR RELEASE FRIDAY  
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UMTA 79-74  
Phone: (202) 426-4043

U.S. Secretary of Transportation Claude S. Brinegar today announced an Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) grant of \$1,235,392 to the City of Madison, Wisconsin, for the purchase of 20 new 53-passenger buses, four new 19-passenger buses and related equipment, and three new buses equipped to transport the handicapped. In addition, the grant provides for the modernization of Madison's bus maintenance facility.

Secretary Brinegar noted that transit ridership is on the increase in Madison as in many other cities throughout the nation. Madison has received two other UMTA Capital Grants. The first, in April, 1971, provided for the public acquisition of the local private carrier, 36 new buses and related support equipment. The second, awarded in June, 1973, aided in the purchase of 22 new buses and related support equipment, construction of a heated storage facility and rehabilitation of the city's bus garage.

Madison is actively pursuing various non-capital intensive methods of improving transit in the area. This includes a reexamination of downtown parking policies and efforts to coordinate bus service with state government employment patterns.

Many features will be incorporated into the new buses to improve the movement of the elderly and handicapped. Upright supports will aid the passenger entering, leaving or standing on the bus. Non-skid

flooring material will be installed for better footing and extensive lighting will help prevent falls. In addition, the buses will be equipped with a public address system which will be of invaluable assistance to blind riders. The three specially equipped buses will be used exclusively for transporting the elderly and handicapped.

The local one-fifth share of the total project cost is being provided by the city of Madison and recently enacted legislation allows state general revenue funds to be used to underwrite up to two-thirds of any operating deficit.

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For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043 or Mr. James McLary, Traffic Engineer, City Hall, Madison, Wisconsin.  
(UMTA Project No. WI-03-0015)

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