



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 11, 1974

UMTA 81-74
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U.S. Secretary of Transportation Claude S. Brinegar today announced two Federal grants totaling \$27,141,504 to the Public Utilities Commission of the City and County of San Francisco, California, to assist in the purchase of mass transit equipment and in making other improvements.

The grants were made by the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA). The first grant, for \$20,557,376 will help buy one hundred new 49-53 passenger diesel transit buses, five 30-35 passenger buses, 135 electric trolley coaches, 20 subway surface transit cars, motor coach noise suppressors for 400 buses, and the installation of bus scheduling computer software. The second grant, for \$6,584,128 supplements a previous award of \$31,764,617 to purchase 210 electric trolley coaches, light rail vehicles, buses and other equipment. The supplementary grant becomes necessary because of higher than expected bid prices for the trolley coaches.

In making the announcement, Secretary Brinegar noted that the San Francisco Municipal Railway (MUNI), operated by the Public Utilities Commission, is the primary mass transportation carrier in the City and County of San Francisco. It operates the largest trackless trolley fleet and with the exception of New York City carries the largest number of passengers per capita population in the nation. "MUNI plays a vital role in the life and commerce of San Francisco", the Secretary said. Since the opening of the Bay Area Rapid Transit system (BART), many MUNI lines have been re-routed to complement and provide easy interchange with BART and other transit facilities in the area.

UMTA Administrator Frank C. Herringer pointed out that these grants will allow MUNI to complete the fleet portion of a major fleet and facility modernization program underway for the past six years. Over \$100 million in Federal funds and a sizeable local commitment have been made available for the program.

The one-fifth local share of the total project cost for those projects announced today is being provided by the sale of bonds by the San Francisco Municipal Railway Improvement Corporation.

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For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043 or Dr. John Christensen, Assistant General Manager, Public Utilities Commission of the City and County of San Francisco, 287 City Hall, San Francisco, California 94102 (UMTA Project Nos. CA-03-0078 and CA-03-0022-4)

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