



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

## URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

# NEWS

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20590

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
July 2, 1974

UMTA 111-74  
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U. S. Secretary of Transportation Claude S. Brinegar today announced a capital grant which, for the first time, makes available for mass transit purposes Federal-aid highway system funds previously earmarked for highways only.

The grant, in the amount of \$12,211,629, was made to the Bi-State Development Agency of St. Louis, Missouri, by the Transportation Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA). Of the total amount provided by the grant, \$1,547,597 come from urban highway system funds. This first-time use of urban highway money for mass transit was made possible by one of the provisions of the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1973.

In announcing the grant, Secretary Brinegar expressed the hope that the Bi-State Development Agency will be but the first of many local agencies to take advantage of the local option provisions of the highway act. He said the law as it now is written can supply much-needed support for mass transit programs in many cities.

Federal funds made available under the St. Louis grant will be used for major improvements in the city's bus system. The grant provides for the purchase of 240 new buses, 100 bus stop shelters, 343 two-way radios, and other support equipment. The new acquisitions will be used to replace aging, unreliable capital items and to expand service. The present project marks the beginning of a five year transit development program which is expected to result in significant ridership increases and a drop in maintenance costs.

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The local share of the present project's total cost is being provided by the States of Illinois and Missouri.

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For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043 or Mr. James Ferry, General Manager, Bi-State Development Agency, 3869 Park Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63110, telephone (314) 777-1414. (UMTA Projects No. IT-03-0014 and IL-23-0001)

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