



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# NEWS

## URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20590

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UMTA 120-74  
Phone: (202) 426-4043

U.S. Secretary of Transportation Claude S. Brinegar today announced a grant of \$70,000,000 to the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), to fund Phase II of its' massive bus and rail capital improvement program. The grant provides for the purchase of 500 new buses, 100 rapid rail cars, 151 support vehicles, and various office and maintenance equipment. Also funded are design and engineering work for the modernization of 18 rapid transit stations and a number of electric power substations.

In announcing the Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) grant, Secretary Brinegar said, "by means of today's grant, CTA will be able to initiate a series of major, long over-due, capital improvements." He added, "The Department will continue in its close cooperation with Chicago's multi-phase transit program to the maximum extent feasible."

UMTA Administrator Frank C. Herringer pointed out that Federal contributions to Phase one of the program amounted to \$93 million, used, in large part, to replace aging buses and rapid transit cars.

Of the 500 coaches to be financed by the present grant, 80 are earmarked for fleet expansion and the rest will continue the replacement program. Phase I vehicles have proven to require only one-third the maintenance cost and road calls required by the older buses. CTA expects to save several million dollars per year in service costs when the entire replacement program is completed.

All of the new rapid rail cars will replace equipment presently in use. The current cars were originally built in 1946 and 1948 as streetcars and later converted to rapid rail. Maintenance costs are prohibitively high and performance standards are not compatible with CTA's demanding requirements.

Equally in need of modernization are CTA's rapid transit stations and power substations, some of which were built before the turn of the century. Today's grant, by funding design and engineering, will allow CTA to make a final determination of structural configuration and probable construction costs. The entire Phase II effort is expected to represent a \$391 million investment over a period of six years.

The local one-fifth share of the present project's total cost is being provided by the State of Illinois.

For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043, or Mr. Milton Pikarsky, Chairman, CTA, Merchandise Mart Plaza, Chicago, Illinois 60654, (312) 664-7200. (UMTA Project No. IL-03-0040)