



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# NEWS

## OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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This is the U.S. Department of Transportation Broadcast News Service for Monday, January 8. As the result of a cooperative effort between this Department and HEW, a new personalized bus service is being initiated in the lower Naugatuck Valley region of Connecticut. The demonstration project is part of the Federal program to improve public transit service to the elderly and the handicapped across the nation. Patricia Cass, of the Urban Mass Transportation Administration's executive staff today explained this project and the need for the program.

"Six specially modified buses, including one with a hydraulic lift, will be used on a fixed route connecting four towns, for service on individual request, and for charter. Riders will use a credit card for the fare -- a computer will analyze the fares recorded and bill either the rider or his social service sponsor monthly.

"Few elderly and handicapped people have ready access to automobiles because of both physical and economic barriers. In order to alleviate this problem, the Urban Mass Transportation Administration has funded seven demonstrations which are testing innovative services for them. We are also on new vehicles -- both bus and rail -- which will be totally accessible."

For further information call 202-426-4043. This has been the Transportation News Report for Monday, January 8.

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