



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# NEWS

## OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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The U.S. Department of Transportation Broadcast News Service for Wednesday, March 21 has an actuality on the Transbus and a story on a mass transit grant.

First, Secretary of Transportation Claude Brinegar today unveiled three models of the Transbus, the bus of the future being developed by contractors for the Urban Mass Transportation Administration. The models will be taken on a nationwide tour this year by the American Transit Association under a DOT grant. A statement by Secretary Brinegar on the purpose of the tour and a description of the buses by a Department spokesman follow.

"First, by displaying these models, we hope to generate greater local support for bus systems and exclusive bus lanes. In effect, by bringing these models to the cities and explaining their improved design features, we can prove that a new age of urban bus transportation is on the horizon."

"Second, we want local government officials and planners to be aware of the potential value of the Transbus program to help reduce congestion and pollution in their communities. For many cities, the Transbus program could offer near term and low cost help toward solving both of these problems."

"Third, we want bus transit operators to learn how this program will enable them to modernize their fleets and help provide vastly improved service to their passengers in the years ahead."

"Prototypes of the bus of the future, called Transbus are being built by three contractors to Department of Transportation specifications. The attractive buses are sleek and low, designed for maximum safety and comfort for the passengers, with broad tinted windows and roomy seating. Wide doors, close to the curb, will allow easier boarding on buses that will be quieter and cleaner, inside and out. The first prototype vehicles should be completed this fall."

Next, a story concerning a mass transit grant to Seattle.

"The U.S. Department of Transportation has awarded a \$1 million grant to Seattle, Washington to be used in the acquisition of a privately owned transit company. This money, as well as \$500,000 in local funds, will be used to acquire and refurbish buses and to purchase related facilities."

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"The grant was made possible under President Nixon's five year program to improve transit service. While he cites this as a responsible expansion of justified federal activities, the President has identified a number of federal programs for elimination, reduction or reform in order to avoid a tax increase estimated at 15 percent. "

This has been the Transportation News Report.

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