



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# NEWS

## URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20590

FOR RELEASE THURSDAY  
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UMTA 76-19  
Phone: (202) 426-4043

A transit mall will be built in downtown Portland, Oregon, as a result of a \$11,972,164 grant announced today by U. S. Secretary of Transportation William T. Coleman, Jr.

The grant was made by the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) and supplements previous funding which provided for design and engineering of the project.

Public usage of transit in Portland has been impressive. The system ridership has risen from 16.6 million in 1969, the first year of public ownership of the system, to nearly 23 million last year. Additional increases are forecast for the next few years. When completed in 1980, up to 260 buses and 24,000 passengers are expected to use each street of the mall during the peak hour if environmentally and operationally feasible.

UMTA Administrator Robert E. Patricelli describes the proposed mall as consisting of an 11 block segment on Fifth and Sixth Avenues. Through auto traffic is to be prohibited on the mall. Two "transit only" lanes are to be provided on each street with a third lane for automobiles where auto access is critical to the functioning of hotels and similar businesses. Sidewalks are to be widened, curbside parking eliminated and two bus loading/unloading areas constructed in each block to accommodate the heavy volume of passengers.

Tri-Met, the bus operator in the Portland area, is providing the local share of the project cost while the City, private utility companies and property owners will cover costs incidental to the transit mall construction.

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For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043 or Mr. Roger Shields, Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District, 520 S.W. Yamill, Portland, Oregon (503) 222-7117. (UMTA Project No. OR-03-0008)

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