



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR RELEASE FRIDAY
June 21, 1974

UMTA 96-74
Phone: (202) 426-4043

The U. S. Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) today announced a grant of \$720,568 to the Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District of Portland, Oregon, to assist in the final design and engineering of a Transit Mall.

The project follows recommendations of an UMTA funded technical study of system improvements designed to significantly increase ridership. The study was conducted by the Columbia Region Association of Governments, regional planning agency for the area. It recommended construction of the Transit Mall on Fifth and Sixth Avenues in downtown Portland, the construction of suburban transit stations, functioning as park and ride lots and the linking of the lots and Mall by exclusive bus lanes. Based on the implementation of these improvements, the plan conservatively projected a ridership of 22.5 million by 1976.

The Mall would provide exclusive lanes for all Tri-Met buses routed through the downtown area. All curbside parking along the 11 block Mall would be eliminated, sidewalks widened, and amenities for the elderly and handicapped included in the design plan. Tri-Met also is proceeding with

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the planning and implementation of the transit stations, and parking lots.

The one-fifth local share of the total project cost is being provided by the Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District.

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For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043 or Mr. Thomas S. King, General Manager Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District, 431 S.E. 17th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97202 or telephone (503) 233-8373. (UMTA Project No. OR-03-0008)

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