



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# NEWS

## URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

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U.S. Secretary of Transportation Claude S. Brinegar today announced the first significant use of Federal-Aid Urban System funds for mass transit purposes. Thirty-three million, Nineteen thousand dollars have been made available to the New York City Transit Authority (NYCTA) for bus and rail projects from funds that had until recently been reserved for construction of urban highways. Local option in the use of these Federal funds was made possible by the enactment of the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1973.

By means of today's grant, NYCTA will buy 398 new transit buses and will continue its subway fixed equipment rehabilitation program. The buses will replace 378 vehicles too old to provide reliable service and will be put to use in all operating divisions. The rehabilitation effort will focus on replacing 92 subway station change booths. Some were built as early as 1914, are unsightly, and offer little security to NYCTA employees. Also scheduled for replacement are the power rails on the Broadway-

Seventh Avenue Line and the incandescent lighting in the 60th Street Tunnel. Both the rail and bus projects will be administered by the Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA).

In announcing the grant, Secretary Brinegar said, "We hope that New York's flexible use of Federal highway funds will prove to be an instructive example for the entire nation." UMTA Administrator Frank C. Herringer pointed out that because Federal-Aid Urban System funds have been made available for transit purposes, NYCTA has been able to seek Federal assistance for routine fleet replacement and fixed facility upgrading for the first time. Administrator Herringer noted that past UMTA assistance to NYCTA has totaled nearly \$400,000,000 but that these funds have always been for major capital investments in the New York subway system.

The local share of the present project's total cost is being provided by the State and City of New York.

For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043 or Mr. Sidney Brandes, Executive Office Construction, NYCTA, 370 Jay Street, Brooklyn, New York, 11201 (212) 262-8505 (UMTA Project No. NY-23-0001)