



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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UMTA 113-74
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U. S. Secretary of Transportation Claude S. Brinegar today announced a grant of \$12,146,480 to the City of New York Transportation Administration, New York City, New York, to assist in the purchase of one ferry boat for the Staten Island-Manhattan ferry service.

Ferry service between Staten Island and Manhattan has been in existence more than 100 years. Operated by the City of New York since 1905 it is the most direct and convenient service between the dense employment center in lower Manhattan and rapidly growing Staten Island.

Today's grant was made by the Transportation Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA). The ferry boat to be purchased is designed to accommodate 6,000 passengers. The boat to be replaced by the new ferry, can accommodate only 3,000 passengers.

In making the announcement Secretary Brinegar noted that coordination of transit modes best adapted to a particular locality and environment are needed to attain maximum

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mobility for resources expended. "Although we look to bus and rail for most of our transit needs," he said, "ferry boats where applicable can provide a vital link in the total transportation system of a community." Last year nearly 20 million persons rode the Staten Island ferry. The city projects an increase to 28 million riders by 1978.

UMTA Administrator Frank C. Herringer said that the new boat and planned terminals are designed to be fully accessible to elderly and handicapped patrons through the use of ramps between decks and terminals and streets rather than stairs. He commented that the new boat should be in service within two years after the construction contract is awarded. He further noted that bids will be requested for one and two boats with options for the purchase of three, leaving open the possibility of Federal participation in the funding of additional boats.

The one-fifth local share of the total project cost is being provided by the City of New York through general revenues.

For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043 or Mr. Michael J. Lazar, Commissioner, City of New York Transportation Administration, 40 Worth Street, New York, New York 10013, telephone (212) 566-4112. (UMTA Project No. NY-03-0017)