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Contact: Linda Teixeira
Phone: (202) 426-4043

DOT ANNOUNCES \$5 MILLION IN GRANTS TO SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COMMUNITIES

LOS ANGELES -- Two California communities will purchase new buses and two others will develop plans for public transportation improvements with the aid of \$5 million in federal grants announced today by Secretary of Transportation Brock Adams.

Santa Monica will purchase 15 new advance design transit coaches with full accessibility for the handicapped. A federal grant of \$1,574,852 assists this project.

Montebello will purchase eight new 45-passenger, air-conditioned, advance design buses with the help of a \$646,000 grant.

The Southern California Association of Governments, the planning organization for five counties in the Los Angeles area, and the city of San Diego received planning grants of \$2,680,000 and \$600,000 respectively.

Secretary Adams commended the community of Santa Monica for its effort to improve public transportation for handicapped citizens.

Adams noted that the grants announced today are the first for California cities under a new system aimed at cutting bureaucratic red tape to speed up grant processing.

Mass transit capital assistance grants to communities with populations under 5 million are now approved at the regional level, rather than in Washington. The grants announced today were processed by the Urban Mass Transportation Administration regional office in San Francisco.

Local sources for additional information are J.F. Hutchinson, Director of Transportation, City of Santa Monica, 1620 Sixth Street, Santa Monica, California 90401, (213) 451-5444 (CA-03-0170); Roy R. Peterson, City Administrator, City of Montebello, 1600 W. Beverly Blvd., Montebello, California 90640, (213) 725-1200 (CA-03-0175); W. O. Ackerman, Jr., Director, Transportation Planning, Southern California Association of Governments, 600 S. Commonwealth Avenue, Suite 1000, Los Angeles, California 90005, (213) 385-1000 (CA-09-0069); Lee Haltgren, Director of Transportation, Comprehensive Planning Organization, 1200 Third Avenue, Suite 524, San Diego, California 92101, (714) 236-5300 (CA-09-0071).

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