

U.S. Department of Transportation news:



Office of Public and Consumer Affairs

Washington, D.C. 20590

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, September 22, 1978

UMTA 78-61

Contact: Karen Lyden
(202) 426-4043

\$19 MILLION TO NEW ORLEANS FOR TRANSIT IMPROVEMENTS

A \$19,485,016 grant to assist in the purchase of 185 new 45-passenger buses for the City of New Orleans' transit system was announced today by the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Ten of the buses will be equipped with wheelchair lifts for use by handicapped and elderly persons. The grant also will be used to purchase spare parts, 510 registering fareboxes and a coin collection system.

Richard S. Page, Administrator of the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration, noted that the most conspicuous need of mass transit in New Orleans is for new vehicles. The 185 buses being replaced are all over 13 years old and have a high number of miles on them. "Excessive repairs in recent years have jeopardized the dependability and attractiveness of mass transit in the area," Page added.

The new fare collection system made possible by the grant will replace the existing outdated system. The registering fareboxes will have a special lock design that will reduce the time needed to handle money by bus operators. These fareboxes will also provide passenger and fare counts which will aid local transit authorities in monitoring patronage on various routes.

A local source for additional information is Mr. Dean Bell, Transit Administrator, City of New Orleans, 1300 Perdido Street, New Orleans, La. 70112, (504) 586-3807. (IA-03-0015)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION
ADMINISTRATION
Washington, D.C. 20590

Official Business

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION
ADMINISTRATION
DOT 511

FIRST CLASS

