



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR RELEASE THURSDAY
May 31, 1973

UMTA 73-42
Phone: (202) 426-4043

Secretary of Transportation Claude S. Brinegar today announced a grant of \$78,714 to the City of Danbury, Connecticut, for the purchase of five new 19-25 passenger buses and related equipment.

This Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) grant will assist the City of Danbury in restoring a transit system in the Danbury-Bethel area. The region has been without public transportation since August 1970. The Danbury Power and Transportation Company operated the transit system for almost 40 years, but the spiral of rising costs and decreased ridership forced it to terminate service in the Fall of 1964. Through the efforts of the City of Danbury and the Chamber of Commerce, a series of private operators attempted to restore private service to the area until the final attempt failed in August 1970.

In making the grant, Secretary Brinegar observed that despite the risks of starting a completely new system in a small city, Danbury's commitment to a transit system seems to be real and broad based. He also pointed out that the decision reflects the recommendations of a feasibility study recently conducted by the Tri-State Regional Planning Commission.

UMTA Administrator Frank C. Herringer added that the City proposes to use general revenue sharing funds and a State-authorized additional 1¢ per gallon local gasoline tax to support its new transit system.

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"This grant," Administrator Herringer said, "will assure mobility to non-drivers, the young, the old, the handicapped and the poor, and will offer the automobile owner an alternative to driving his car for local trips."

The local one-third share will be provided by the State of Connecticut.

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For further information contract the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043 or the Honorable Gino J. Arconti, Mayor, City of Danbury, Danbury, Connecticut 06810. (UMTA Project No. CT-03-0009)

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