



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR RELEASE FRIDAY
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UMTA 06-74
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Secretary of Transportation Claude S. Brinegar today announced an Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) grant of \$860,480 to the town of Chapel Hill, North Carolina to assist in the purchase of 13 new 19-25 passenger and four new 45-passenger, air conditioned, diesel transit buses, related support equipment and the construction of a bus maintenance and repair facility.

"A distinct effort is needed on the part of local officials and citizens if we are to prevent a worsening of the energy shortage. Residents of Chapel Hill are leading the way by establishing the first regularly scheduled urban bus system in the town since the late 1940's." Secretary Brinegar said.

Although the Student Government of the University of North Carolina operates a campus shuttle service when University classes are in session, routes are limited primarily to campus streets. The new service is designed so that 95 per cent of the town's population are within 1/4 mile of a bus line. A strong commitment to the success of the project has been made by both the town of Chapel Hill and the University.

UMTA Administrator Frank C. Herringer noted that a previous UMTA funded technical study grant provided recommendations which lead to voter approval of issues needed to establish an urban bus system.

By prior agreement, University parking policies will be altered to encourage the use of the new transit system. The basic 15 cent cash fare (10 cents for students) will be augmented by the sale of an annual pass.

Another appealing feature of the new system is demand-responsive service for the elderly and handicapped. One of the 19-25 passenger buses will be modified and equipped with a wheelchair lift to provide on-call service daily.

The one-fifth local share of the project cost is being provided by the town of Chapel Hill.

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For further information contact the Urban Mass Transportation Administration, Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043 or Mr. Chester Kendzior, Jr. Town Manager, Town Hall, Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514 (UMTA Project No. NC-03-0003).

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