



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR RELEASE FRIDAY
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UMTA 16-74
Phone: (202) 426-4043

Secretary of Transportation Claude S. Brinegar today announced a \$1,355,316 Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) grant to the METRO Regional Transit Authority (METRO) of Akron, Ohio to assist in the purchase of 30 new 45-passenger, air-conditioned, diesel transit buses equipped with two-way radios. An addition to the present storage facility will be constructed and renovation of garage and office facilities accomplished. Three automobiles, 70 fareboxes, and 2,000 bus stop signs also will be purchased and installed.

"The overall effectiveness of a transit system depends largely on the condition of its equipment and the support of its people. Because residents are supporting transit, Akron soon will have the equipment so badly needed and richly deserved by this community," Secretary Brinegar said. Area residents voted a one mill tax on property for transit purposes in 1972. A two-county UMTA funded technical study recommended the improvements announced today.

Frank C. Herringer, UMTA Administrator noted that the City of Akron first received Federal funds in June, 1970, to establish a mass transportation system. Certain assets of the former private owner were acquired, a storage facility constructed, and 30 buses were purchased as well as attendant maintenance equipment. Implementation of expanded service to area residents will require 20 buses with the remaining ten new buses replacing ten older buses, which will be maintained as backup vehicles. The fleet will be expanded from 69 to 99 buses. Two new routes and extensive changes to others will add more than 700 daily miles to the system. Although the trend of

declining ridership has been reversed, a substantial increase in patronage is expected to result from the inauguration of these assitional service improvements.

The one-fifth local share of the total project cost is being provided by the METRO Regional Transit Authority and the Ohio Department of Transportation.

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For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043 or Mr. Ernie Miller, General Manager, METRO Regional Transit Authority, 416 Kenmore Boulevard, Akron, Ohio 44301. (UMTA Project No. OH-03-0023)

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