



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR RELEASE TUESDAY
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UMTA 20-74
Phone: (202) 426-4043

Secretary of Transportation Claude S. Brinegar today announced a \$123,240 grant to the City of Ashtabula, Ohio to assist in the purchase of three new 25-passenger buses, three fareboxes, maintenance and related equipment, one-half acre of land and the construction of a garage and office building. The new buses, funded by the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) will replace three of the antiquated six-bus fleet presently serving Ashtabula.

Secretary Brinegar said, "The City of Ashtabula has long recognized the need to provide public transportation within the community. As our nation faces a serious energy shortage, I would encourage other cities to look at mass transit as a means of conserving energy, reducing congestion, and providing citizen mobility." Ashtabula went into the mass transit business when it purchased the existing street car lines in 1922, making it one of the oldest publicly owned systems in the State. Since that time, the City has provided continuous transit service for the community. The City went to an all bus system in 1939 when the street cars were abandoned.

Frank C. Herringer, UMTA Administrator praised the City's policy of free rides for senior citizens with a "Golden Agers" pass. Many of the area's elderly are totally dependent upon the system for transportation, and this group comprises 78 per cent of the system's total patronage. Service is provided within the city limits and too three subdivisions adjacent to the City.

The improved service, increased dependability of the new buses, and a better maintenance facility are expected to increase ridership and substantially lower the system's operating cost.

The local one-fifth share of the project cost is being provided by the City of Ashtabula.

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For further information contact the Urban Mass Transportation Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043 or Mr. Edward F. Bento, City Manager, 4400 Main Avenue, Ashtabula, Ohio 44004 (UMTA Project No. OH-03-0024)

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