



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# NEWS

## URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR RELEASE FRIDAY  
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UMTA 21-74  
Phone: (202) 426-4043

Secretary of Transportation Claude S. Brinegar today announced an Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) grant of \$1,333,200 to the Ann Arbor Transportation Authority for the purchase of 45 new 10-16 passenger buses, five of which will be equipped with wheelchair lifts. Eleven new 45-passenger buses will also be purchased. Radio equipment, fareboxes, construction of passenger waiting shelters and the purchase of other equipment needed to establish a city-wide dial-a-ride bus system is included.

"The innovative use of conventional equipment, as in dial-a-ride, is most promising for providing an early transportation alternative to the private automobile. The dial-a-ride potential is especially significant in providing mobility to the handicapped and elderly who are unable to utilize conventional public transportation modes," Secretary Brinegar said.

A pilot dial-a-ride service, begun in Ann Arbor in 1971, was financed by State and local sources. Because of an overwhelming acceptance of the pilot system it was decided to institute service for the entire city.

UMTA Administrator Frank C. Herringer noted the dial-a-ride operations will supplement regularly scheduled fixed route service. The capital and operating costs of the system will be provided through a 2.5 mill property tax increase approved by the voters early last year. The eleven new 45-passenger buses are needed for express

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routes while the smaller dial-a-ride buses provide feeder service.

The one-fifth local share of the project cost is being provided by the Ann Arbor Transportation Authority and the State of Michigan.

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For further information contact the Urban Mass Transportation Administration, Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043 or Mr. Karl Guenther, Executive Director, Ann Arbor Transportation Authority, 315 West Huron Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103. (UMTA Project No. MI-03-0023)

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