



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR RELEASE WEDNESDAY
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UMTA 29-74
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Secretary of Transportation Claude S. Brinegar today announced a \$1,087,176 Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) grant to the Utah Transit Authority serving the Salt Lake City area, to assist in the purchase of 28 new 45-passenger buses, bus stop signs, shelters and benches, service vehicles, shop tools and other bus transit related equipment.

Secretary Brinegar noted the drastic decline in the number of passengers from World War II until public ownership and Federal assistance helped stabilize ridership in 1971. "Capital investments in this and other projects nationwide are foreseen to lessen the effects of the present energy shortage by providing fuel-efficient public transportation service as an effective alternative to the private automobile," Secretary Brinegar said.

Since the end of World War II when ridership on Salt Lake City buses totaled about 30 million passengers annually, patronage has steadily declined to a low of only 3.1 million in 1971. Stabilization of ridership was made possible in 1972 following an earlier UMTA grant to assist in public acquisition of the system.

UMTA Administrator Frank C. Herringer noted that recent ridership surveys indicate an increase in patrons of over 12%. The funding approved today will provide replacements for 28 antiquated 22-23 year old transit buses. Replacement of the aging buses is an integral part

of Salt Lake City's transit development program and is expected to reduce significantly maintenance costs and increase the reliability of service. Also, the passenger appeal of attractive new buses is expected to result in a further increase in ridership.

The one-fifth local share of the project cost is being provided by Salt Lake City, South Salt Lake, Murray, Midvale and Salt Lake County.

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For further information contact the Urban Mass Transportation Administration, Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043 or Mr. William Oswald, Acting Executive Director, Utah Transit Authority Salt Lake City, Utah. (UMTA Project No. UT-03-0003)

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