



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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UMTA 73-61
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The U.S. Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) today announced a grant of \$21.7 million to San Francisco's Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART) to assist in the purchase and installation of a series of safety, reliability and operating improvements that will enable the BART system to reach its full operating potential.

As a result of this UMTA grant for \$21,681,333 improvements will be made in two categories comprising those that have been dictated by operating experience and those that have always been considered needed but have been deferred due to funding limitations.

The first group includes wide-spread improvements to the automatic train control system and the construction of a 2-1/2 mile test track in order to perform necessary testing of transit cars after repair or modification.

Other projects include additional fare collection equipment to handle the patronage expectations in 1975-76, increasing the capacity of electrical substations from 60% of designed capacity to the 100% needed to operate longer trains on high speed schedules, and a Trackway Protective System and Seismic Alarm System to monitor critical earthquake fault locations along the right-of-way.

Numerous other passenger comfort and operational refinements are also provided for within the scope of today's grant.

In announcing the grant, Secretary of Transportation Claude S. Brinegar pointed out that when the BART system begins operating 20 hours a day, seven days a week it will become an attractive alternative to the auto and will challenge the increasing problems of congestion in the natural transportation corridors, parking in the central business district and pollution of the general environment. This, said Secretary Brinegar, is in accordance with goals set by President Nixon.

UMTA Administrator Frank C. Herringer noted that today's award is the ninth capital grant UMTA has made to BART and brings the Federal participation to \$255 million. He said it demonstrates UMTA's continuing support for BART's aggressive program for meeting demands for new transit systems.

The local one-third share will be provided from the State imposed gasoline tax under the provisions of California Senate Bill 325.

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For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043 or Mr. B. R. Stokes, General Manager, Bay Area Rapid Transit District, 800 Madison Street, Oakland, California. (UMTA Project No. CA-03-0069)

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