



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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UMTA 9-74
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Secretary of Transportation Claude S. Brinegar today announced a \$2,343,200 Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) grant to the Western Reserve Transit Authority (WRTA) of Youngstown, Ohio to assist in the acquisition of the privately owned Youngstown Transit Company. In addition to acquiring the existing company's assets, WRTA will purchase 50 new 41-45 passenger air-conditioned diesel buses, one 19-25 passenger air-conditioned bus, two-way radio equipment and fare boxes. The existing garage will be renovated and 25 bus shelters purchased and installed.

"Youngstown becomes the 114th city in the nation to utilize the Department's mass transit capital assistance program to preserve or stabilize the community's bus system. A primary objective of the urban mass transportation program is the preservation and improvement of existing public transportation systems," Secretary Brinegar said.

The Youngstown Transit Company ceased transit operations in August, 1970, and currently leases its facilities, buses and other equipment to the Western Reserve Transit Authority.

Frank C. Herringer, UMTA Administrator, commended Youngstown area residents for their special tax vote to assure funds for transit purposes. "A community must have the confidence and support

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of its citizenry before it can maintain a viable transit service," Herringer said. The current 60 bus fleet averages more than twenty years old, with only 27 buses operational.

The cost of maintaining the older vehicles in operating condition is exorbitant. The new buses will replace the antiquated fleet and enable service to be expanded nearly two-thirds. New routes and added service along existing routes will reduce headways by almost one-half. Route extensions will include better connections and more frequent service to industrial, commercial, public and semi-public centers, to homes for the aged, and to low income and minority areas. A 70 per cent increase, 2,158 route miles per day, is planned for the system. The new garage facility, maintenance and service equipment will help to lower operating costs and increase the overall operating efficiency of the system.

The one-fifth local share of the project cost is being provided by the Western Reserve 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. Lehman E. Black, President of the Board of Trustees, Western Reserve Transit Authority, 604 Mahoning Avenue, Youngstown, Ohio 44502. (UMTA Project No. OH-03-0025)

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