



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR RELEASE TUESDAY
February 19, 1974

UMTA 26-74
Phone: (202) 426-4034

Secretary of Transportation Claude S. Brinegar today announced an Urban Mass Transportation (UMTA) grant of \$1,043,012 to the Eugene, Oregon, area Lane Transit District (LTD) to assist in the purchase of 19 new 31-35 passenger buses, shop and fueling/washing properties and related bus transit support equipment. In addition, one new 25-foot specially equipped bus for wheelchair passengers will be acquired.

"Eugene's success story in revitalizing public transit is indicative of what can be done to conserve energy and improve the mobility for millions of Americans throughout the country," Secretary Brinegar said. The average weekday ridership of the Eugene-Springfield transportation system early in 1972 was only 2,200. Present weekday revenue passengers has risen to 8,600 per day.

UMTA Administrator Frank C. Herringer recounted the Federal role in this dramatic success. Before public takeover by LTD with the aid of a \$427,350 UMTA capital grant, public transportation in the area consisted of twenty antiquated school buses operating under private ownership.

On acquisition by LTD the old buses were replaced with 22 new buses, the routing and headway system restructured, and an aggressive and imaginative advertising campaign instituted. The existing 25 cent basic fare structure was retained.

The investments of money, management and material received a positive public response. Ridership doubled during

the three-month period after the new buses were put on the road and continued to rise far faster than the most optimistic expectations.

With the acquisitions of the equipment and property provided for under this grant, LTD will be able to retain the present ridership and expand service to areas not presently serviced or inadequately served. The specially equipped bus initially will serve elderly and handicapped persons on a demand-response basis until definite operating policies can be established.

The one-fifth local share of the project cost is being provided by the Lane Transit District through revenues derived from a gross payroll tax.

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For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043 or Mr. Fred Dyer, General Manager, Lane Transit District, P.O. Box 1135, Eugene, Oregon 97401. (UMTA Project No. OR-03-0007)

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