



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# NEWS

## URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Secretary of Transportation Claude S. Brinegar today announced a \$366,408 grant to the State of Florida to help demonstrate an innovative express bus service along NW 7th Avenue south of Miami's central business district.

The grant, made by the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), funds the first phase of a joint project with the Department's Federal Highway Administration. In the first phase, buses will be equipped with special transmitters allowing the driver to preempt traffic lights on a reserved lane. An electronic signal from the bus will change red lights to green on the exclusive bus lane, allowing buses to operate nonstop for distances up to nine miles.

"This project will demonstrate several new approaches to giving buses preferential treatment over private automobiles," the Secretary said. "The importance of moving more people rather than more vehicles on our streets and highways is a primary objective of the Department of Transportation."

Phase Two calls for the construction of two additional highway lanes on Interstate-95, which runs parallel to 7th Avenue. When these lanes are completed, the express bus service on NW 7th Avenue will be shifted to Interstate-95 and the new lanes will be reserved for buses and carpools only.

UMTA Administrator Frank C. Herringer pointed out that this project represents many of the characteristics President Nixon has urged for solving America's urban transportation problems. "The planning and funding for this project involves all levels of government --

Federal, State, and local. At the Federal level, UMTA's Research, Development and Demonstrations, Technical Study, and Capital Grant programs will be utilized in conjunction with the Federal Highway Administration and its Interstate Highway Programs," he said.

Another important feature of the project is the provision of a modern commuter terminal system and landscaped parking facility for 1,000 autos, provided through the Federal Highway Interstate Program. Express buses will leave at frequent intervals for major employment centers, gaining direct access to the reserved freeway lane by a specially constructed flyover ramp.

Each of the two demonstration phases is expected to operate 18 months. Metropolitan Dade County Transit Authority will operate the express bus service and adopt it on a permanent basis if the public response is sufficient to defray 85 percent of the costs.

According to Administrator Herringer, "each phase of the project is designed by the UMTA RD&D program to provide other urban areas valuable information with respect to expediting the flow of buses on our existing streets and highways."

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For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043, or Mr. Walter L. Revell, Secretary, State of Florida Department of Transportation, Tallahassee, Florida.

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