



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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Secretary of Transportation Claude S. Brinegar today announced a \$96,800 grant to the American Transit Association (ATA) to conduct a nationwide tour of TRANSBUS models, giving transit operators and the public a preview of the "bus of the future." These are five-foot scale models of the three prototype buses now being developed under a \$25 million Transportation Department program.

Under the terms of this grant, made by the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), ATA will design two displays featuring scale models of the three TRANSBUS designs now being developed by AM General Corporation, Rohr Industries, and the Truck and Coach Division of General Motors Corporation. One display will tour cities in the West while the other circulates in the eastern half of the country. Approximately 100 cities will be included in these tours.

"The primary objective of displaying these models is to show the general public, local officials, and transit system operators the improvements and innovations they can expect from the TRANSBUS program," Secretary Brinegar said.

But an equally important benefit, according to the Secretary, will be the reaction received from the many thousands of people who will be seeing these models and expressing their views regarding these new buses. "We want to learn how the future passengers and operators feel about the designs now being developed in our TRANSBUS competition," he said.

Booz, Allen Applied Research, Inc., is the prime contractor to UMTA for the TRANSBUS program; the three manufacturers are competing under subcontracts awarded in 1971. Each manufacturer will deliver three prototype buses to the Department of Transportation this summer for evaluation tests, and UMTA plans to select the best design by mid-1974.

The model tour, like the entire TRANSBUS program, requires close cooperation on the part of the Federal government, the transit industry, and several private corporations. "In this respect," Secretary Brinegar said, "the TRANSBUS program itself could be considered a model of what President Nixon is seeking in all of his domestic programs. This is not just a Federal program. This is not one industry's program. This is a program in which Americans from every level of government, from many transit systems, and from private corporations will be working together to improve public transportation for every city and every citizen in this great Nation."

Administrator Frank C. Herringer described the TRANSBUS program as one of UMTA's most important projects. "We cannot reduce congestion and air pollution in the 1970s with buses designed in the 1950s," he said. "We need a new design, incorporating the latest technology and greatest passenger appeal, if we are going to revitalize America's urban bus systems."

When the \$25 million TRANSBUS program is completed, the final design will be the property of the Department of Transportation, but any qualified bus manufacturer may use it. This standard design may well become the only 40-foot bus UMTA will fund under its Capital Grant program. Since 1965, UMTA has provided two-thirds of the cost to help American cities purchase more than 12,000 new buses.

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For further information, contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043, or American Transit Association at (202) 484-5410. (UMTA Project No. DC-06-0086)