



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# NEWS

## URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20590

FOR RELEASE TUESDAY A.M.  
May 29, 1973

UMTA 73-37  
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Secretary of Transportation Claude S. Brinegar today announced a grant of \$1.1 million to the City and County of Denver, Colorado to assist in funding the first year of a five-year capital improvement program.

Included in the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), grant for \$1,144,446 is the purchase of 28 47-passenger buses, four 25-passenger, propane-powered buses and related equipment. The purchase of fare boxes, two-way radios, passenger shelters and maintenance equipment are also included, along with renovation of the Alameda garage facility.

In announcing the grant, Secretary Brinegar noted that since the acquisition of the Denver Tramway Corporation in April 1971, the County and City owned Denver Metro Transit (DMT) bus system has been experiencing increased ridership as a result of improved and expanded service throughout the area. Included in this program are over 60 route changes and extensions, the creation of an exclusive express busway, and a Downtown Area Runabout (DART) system within the Central Business District. The Secretary observed that this is the kind of mass transportation progress that President Nixon referred to when he said: "Good public transportation is essential not only to assure adequate transportation for all citizens, but to forward the common goal of less congested, cleaner, safer communities."

At the time of the announcement, UMTA Administrator Frank C. Herringer pointed out that by communicating service improvements to potential riders through frequent media campaigns, by introducing

special promotional events such as "Nickle Day," and by a general reduction of fares, Denver Metro Transit had sharply reversed the trend of declining ridership. In 1972, Herringer said, DMT showed a rider increase of more than 20% over the previous year.

The Federal grant will fund two-thirds of the cost of DMT's 1973 capital improvement program. The local one-third share will be provided by the City and County of Denver from its General Fund.

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For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043 or Mr. H. P. Ishmael, Resident Manager, Denver Metro Transit, City and County Building, Denver, Colorado 80202. (UMTA Project No. CO-03-0006)

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