



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20590

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UMTA 73-50
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Secretary of Transportation Claude S. Brinegar today announced a grant of almost \$300,000 to the City of Jackson, Mississippi to aid in the purchase of seven new 45-passenger buses, including related support equipment, and five new smaller buses for the exclusive, free use of the elderly.

The Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) said that the 45-passenger buses would replace obsolete buses now being used by the Jackson Transit Corporation and represent the first phase of a five-year program to bring the average age and quality of the entire fleet up to current industry standards. The second part of this \$291,528 grant provides for five 16-passenger buses for senior citizens, and will be used as an adjunct to the regular line-haul service.

In making the grant, Secretary Brinegar said, "If we are to carry out President Nixon's policies, there is no question that we are to act whenever we can to improve transit for the elderly." He went on to say that Jackson's new free elderly service on a regular basis and subsidized by the city is an innovation that should be carefully considered by similar cities.

UMTA Administrator Frank C. Herringer observed that this radio-dispatched home-to-destination service will afford Jackson's 18,000 elderly citizens a degree of mobility, previously unavailable to them. Herringer referred to President Nixon's statement that, "The point of our government programs and policies (is) to help older Americans play a full, continuing role in the great adventures of America." The Administrator pointed out that this would not be possible without the availability of safe, convenient, comfortable transportation.

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The local one-third share for this project will be provided by the City of Jackson from its General Fund.

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For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043 or Mayor Russell C. Davis, City Hall, Jackson, Mississippi 39205. (UMTA Project No. MS-03-0004)

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