



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

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The U.S. Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) today announced a grant of \$450,000 as UMTA's share of a \$700,000 award being made to the City of Cleveland, Ohio. The other \$250,000 of the total award was provided by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) as its share in a demonstration project for the design and implementation of a flexible neighborhood transportation system to serve the transit needs of the elderly.

In announcing the grant, Secretary of Transportation Claude S. Brinegar noted that this demonstration, sponsored jointly by UMTA and HEW's Social and Rehabilitation Service, is being coordinated with over 12 agencies and organizations concerned with the problems of the aging. Major participants include the Cleveland Transit System, the Mayor's Office on Aging, Model Cities, and the areawide Model project on Aging. Secretary Brinegar added that programs such as this are indicative of President Nixon's policy of helping our senior citizens remain a part of the main stream of American life.

UMTA Administrator Frank C. Herringer explained that the neighborhood service concept involves the operation of three small radio-equipped buses in each of three demonstration neighborhoods. Herringer added that the City of Cleveland and the Mayor's Commission on Aging would have overall responsibility for the program,

and Cleveland Transit System would operate the service with nine 20-25 passenger buses. He also noted that one bus in each area would be specially equipped for serving the physically handicapped, Also in neighborhoods where elderly residents speak predominantly a foreign language, special provisions will be made to communicate in their native tongue.

Other features of the project include an advanced reservation program for the elderly in conjunction with the regular public transit service and an evaluation of its effects in terms of impact on user groups and the utilization of health and social service facilities. A fare of 10¢ will be charged and service will be provided seven days a week. In addition, the City of Cleveland will continue the special transit operation beyond the demonstration phase, using city funds.

The project demonstrations will be undertaken in three different areas within the City (Buckeye, Model Cities and Fremont) with differing ethnic characteristics, but similar elderly-population densities.

The local one-third share will be provided by the City of Cleveland, the Greater Cleveland Associated Foundation, the Cleveland Transit System and the Buckeye Development Corporation.

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For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043 or the City of Cleveland, City Hall, 601 Lakeside Avenue, N. E., Cleveland, Ohio 44114. (UMTA Project No. OH-06-0018)

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