



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

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UMTA 73-93
Phone: (202) 426-4043

Secretary of Transportation Claude S. Brinegar today announced an Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) grant of \$63,928 to the City of Washington, Indiana for the purchase of three new 20-passenger gasoline powered, air-conditioned buses and reconstruction of an existing City-owned building to be used as a bus storage facility.

"The grant is significant because Washington area residents have been without a public transportation system since 1959." Secretary Brinegar said.

The new system will pay particular attention to the needs of the elderly. Nearly half of the city's population are transit dependent, older than 65 years or younger than 17, with one-third of this group over 65. Service will be provided to elderly housing units, governmental and health care service centers, major places of employment, the central business district, schools, parks and an outlying shopping center.

Today's grant represents 80% of the total project cost with one-fifth of the funding being provided by the City of Washington. Any operating deficits also are being provided for by the City.

UMTA Administrator Frank C. Herringer noted that the persistence and determination of Washington's citizens coupled with a clearly existing need for public transportation has led to the new municipally owned and operated bus system. "Washington's reinstitution of public transportation

service after more than a decade typifies the trend of cities nationwide to reverse the pattern of total dependence on the private automobile," Herringer said. Although potential operators for the local company were sought in hopes that the City would not have to take direct responsibility for providing transit service, it became clear that no private concern was interested and the City voted to establish a municipally owned and operated system.

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For further information contact the UMTA Public Affairs Office at (202) 426-4043 or the City of Washington, City Hall, Washington, Indiana 47501. (UMTA Project No. IN-03-0016)

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