



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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UMTA 73-100
Phone: (202) 426-4043

Secretary of Transportation Claude S. Brinegar today announced an Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) grant of \$2,271,480 to the Des Moines Metropolitan Transit Authority, of Des Moines, Iowa, to assist in the acquisition of the privately owned Iowa Regional Transit Corporation (IRTC).

"Declining ridership, as in many cities, has made public ownership of Des Moines' transit system, the only viable alternative for many of its citizens. Des Moines is the 112th city in the nation to receive Department funds for a public takeover or to otherwise prevent a collapse of its system," Secretary Brinegar said. More than 4.4 million passengers utilized public transportation in the area last year. Implementation of planned capital improvements and increased service is expected to reverse the trend of declining ridership and increased costs.

Frank C. Herringer, UMTA Administrator, noted that a recently completed UMTA funded technical study recommended the establishment of a publicly owned regional transit system. Subsequently, the Des Moines Metropolitan Transit Authority was established to operate the five-city system. The cities of Des Moines, West Des Moines, Clive, Windsor Heights, and Urbandale are served by the new Authority.

In addition to acquiring tangible assets of IRTC, 25 new air-conditioned diesel buses, a two-way radio system, bus stop signs and shelters, 100 locked fare boxes and related equipment also will be purchased.

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Expansion of service in the Des Moines metropolitan area, including new service to Clive, previously without public transportation, is made possible by the grant.

One-fifth of the project cost is being provided by local sources.

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For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043 or the Des Moines Metropolitan Transit Authority, 400 Hubbell Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50309

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