



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# NEWS

## URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR RELEASE FRIDAY  
November 16, 1973

UMTA 73-99  
Phone: (202) 426-4043

Secretary of Transportation Claude S. Brinegar today announced an Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) grant of \$2,166,096 to the Twin Cities Area Metropolitan Transit Commission (MTC) to aid in the purchase of sixty 45-51 passenger diesel-powered transit buses and sixty-three new fareboxes. The new air-conditioned buses will replace older buses in the active fleet and will enable MTC to meet growing passenger traffic demands by instituting new service. Today's grant represents 80 percent of the net project cost, local sources are providing an additional 20 percent of the \$2.7 million project.

"A bright future is in store for mass transit in the Minneapolis-Saint Paul Metropolitan Area," Secretary Brinegar said, "Recently enacted legislation to increase local operating subsidies and the strong local commitment to mass transit should further increase ridership in the area."

Since the 1970 acquisition of the area's major private system by MTC, ridership has increased over 8 percent annually systemwide and more than 50 percent in certain specified areas. In addition to assuming major responsibility for the direction of urban public transportation, MTC also supports and coordinates service with six private carriers who provide regularly scheduled bus service in the area.

UMTA Administrator Frank C. Herringer noted that this is the fifth UMTA capital grant to have been made in the Minneapolis-Saint Paul Area.

Including this grant a total of \$30,712,109 has been set aside to complete various transit improvement projects since 1965. These improvements include the construction of the highly acclaimed Nicollet Avenue Transitway, renovation of system garages, acquisition of several private carriers, and purchase of 670 buses of assorted sizes and miscellaneous bus support equipment.

The new buses when delivered, will be put into service along the I-35W and the I-394 urban corridors, and in Anoka, Hennepin, Ramsey and Washington counties.

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For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043 or the Twin Cities Area Metropolitan Transit Commission, 330 Metro Square Building, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101. (UMTA Project No. MN-03-0008)

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