



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR RELEASE 3:00 P.M.
Wednesday, June 11, 1969

DOT -- 11569
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Modernization of San Francisco's public transit system was given added impetus today when Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe announced a \$1,036,875 Federal grant to that city.

The Federal grant will be matched by local funds to enable the San Francisco Municipal Railroad, "MUNI", to purchase 50 new 48-passenger, radio-equipped diesel transit buses.

This is the first phase of San Francisco's five-year, \$51 million program in which the acquisition of 600 new buses, 160 new electric trolley cars and 50 minibuses is planned.

"The announcement of this grant is especially satisfying to me," Secretary Volpe said, "as it serves to translate from word to deed the pledge I delivered to the San Francisco Bay Area Council in April of the Nixon Administration's intention to untangle the knot of urban transportation."

The replacement of MUNI's rolling stock will greatly improve transit service to the residents of the San Francisco area and is calculated to reduce maintenance costs and accident incidents, improve employee morale, increase MUNI patronage and lend stability to existing business areas which rely on MUNI for a great portion of their patronage.

Per capita transit usage in San Francisco is second only to New York among major American cities, despite the fact the city does not yet have a well developed rapid transit system. The MUNI transports 568,000 revenue passengers on a typical weekday.

In addition to the improvement of existing transit facilities, San Francisco, through the Bay Area Rapid Transit District, is constructing a new rail system involving subways, tubes, elevated and surface lines of high-speed express trains which is scheduled to begin operation in 1971 and provide service between the East Bay area and San Francisco as well as within the city.

MUNI is owned by the City and County of San Francisco and is administered by the City's Public Utilities Commission.

The local contribution to the bus replacement project will be made from funds resulting from the sale of bonds marketed by the San Francisco Municipal Improvement Corporation.

Project No. CAL-UTG-22

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