



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# NEWS

## URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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The Department of Transportation has announced an additional grant of \$1,771,696 for the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District, Secretary John A. Volpe announced today.

The grant, made by the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), will finance further improvements to the recently constituted public bus transportation system in the peninsula area north of San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge, Secretary Volpe said.

"President Nixon has called upon us to write a mass transportation success story for the 1970's," Secretary Volpe said, "and this project has got to be one of really bright success stories," Since implementation of service under the initial grant, the District has experienced a constant growth in ridership "which has pushed equipment capacity to, and indeed beyond, its ability to provide optimum service," the Secretary added.

UMTA Administrator Carlos C. Villarreal, pointing out that the latest grant supplements a \$6,309,332 grant made just last September, said: "This will assist in the acquisition of 54 new diesel transit buses, along with two-way radios, fare boxes, and miscellaneous equipment.

Prior to implementation of service, the District planned that its transit system would serve 5,500 commuters during the morning and evening commute periods during the first six months, and that it would serve 6,000 commuters during the last half of 1972. "The 6,000 level has in fact been exceeded during the first three months of operation," the Administrator pointed out.

"This unexpectedly early success, while obviously most welcome, has another side to it," Villarreal stated. "If the District is to hold its new ridership, and avoid the return of substantial numbers to private automobile travel, it must be able to continue to provide the highest level of service."

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By accelerating the schedule of new equipment acquisition, the District will be able to minimize the need for passengers to stand, and will be able to improve schedules while increasing reliability by reducing maintenance requirements.

"This project does not involve an enlargement of the planned system; rather it is a request for financial assistance to enable the District to implement some increments of service sooner than originally scheduled," Administrator Villarreal said.

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For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs (202) 426-4043, or Dale Luehring, General Manager, Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District, Box 9000, Presidio Station, San Francisco, California 94129. (CAL-UTG-36 Amendment #1)

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