



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# NEWS

## URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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The U. S. Department of Transportation today made three grants totaling nearly \$12 million to help three California cities buy a total of 251 buses, including 220 for Los Angeles.

The grants, made by the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), all were made under President Nixon's Urban Mass Transportation Assistance Act of 1970, which currently is providing \$1 billion a year to save and upgrade mass transit systems across the Nation.

In addition to providing nearly \$11 million to Los Angeles for 220 air-conditioned buses, UMTA made a \$978,143 grant to nearby Santa Monica for 30 new buses and a third grant of \$22,400 to Modesto, California, to help that city buy one new bus. Local one-third funding totaling nearly \$6 million will bring the total value of the three projects to nearly \$18 million.

Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe said that all three grants "are part of President Nixon's efforts to give the American commuter an alternative to driving his automobile on short urban trips.

"In addition, with these grants, we are using Federal tax funds to provide urban mobility for all city residents -- the poor, the aged, the young, the handicapped and the non-driver," Secretary Volpe said.

The Los Angeles grant -- for \$10,762,466 -- went to the Southern California Rapid Transit District (SCRTD) to replace buses which are 15 or more years old. Two hundred of the new air-conditioned buses will carry between 49 and 53 passengers, while the remaining 20 will be 17 to 24 passenger mini-buses.

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Administrator Carlos C. Villarreal of UMTA said the SCRTD grant also will help the District buy 117 supervisory automobiles and maintenance trucks, 1,165 two-way radios for all of their buses and purchase other "much-needed operating equipment."

Also included in the Los Angeles grant are funds to convert 650 present SCRTD buses to LSN fuel injectors to help cut down on exhaust pollution, which is a mounting problem in the Los Angeles area.

The regular-size buses will be used on routes throughout the SCRTD system, "resulting in more reliable and comfortable commuter service," Administrator Villarreal said. "The 20 new mini-buses will be used to meet public demand for additional short-run service."

To further improve the SCRTD bus operation, the District plans to purchase a new computer and start installation of new fare collection, vehicle locator and passenger counting systems, the Administrator said.

About the same time Los Angeles gets its 220 new buses, nearby Santa Monica will receive 25 new 49-53 passenger air-conditioned buses, along with five slightly smaller transit coaches capable of handling between 40 and 45 passengers. The 30 new buses will replace equipment which is between 10 and 14 years old, joining regular routes of the Santa Monica Municipal Bus Lines.

Secretary Volpe said the new buses "will not only enhance the comfort, safety and reliability of service, but they should also help to attract additional riders to the transit system."

Modesto, California's new 31 to 35 passenger air-conditioned bus will be used to provide service on a new scheduled route. It will be leased by the city to the Modesto Motor Bus Service, which provides transit service for the Modesto urban area. In 1967, UMTA made a grant to Modesto which helped the city buy four other buses.

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For further information, contact Walter Gold at the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043, or the individual grantee. Additional SCRTD grant information (UMTA Project No. CA-03-0049) can be obtained from Mr. Jack Gilstrap, General Manager, SCRTD, Los Angeles, California. More Santa Monica grant information (UMTA Project No. CA-03-0057) should come from Mr. Perry Scott, City Manager, Santa Monica, California. And Mr. John C. Keefe, City Manager, Modesto, California, is the contact for more information on that grant (UMTA Project No. CA-03-0050.)