



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

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UMTA 73-41
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Secretary of Transportation Claude S. Brinegar today announced a grant of \$10.9 million to California's Orange County Transit District (OCTD) to aid in the purchase of 162 new 40-45 passenger buses and related equipment, construction of a maintenance and administration facility, and a communication base station.

This \$10,901,014 Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) grant will also include 195 fare boxes, 60 passenger shelters, 4500 bus stop signs, 12 service vehicles and 205 two-way mobile radios, along with maintenance, office and shop equipment.

In making the grant, Secretary Brinegar noted that since OCTD assumed operations of the privately owned South Coast Transit Corporation and the Santa Ana Transit less than a year ago, rates have been reduced to 25 cents and ridership has almost tripled. The Secretary also pointed out that until this current grant, OCTD presented an outstanding example of people on the local level making their own decisions and implementing those decisions themselves.

In expanding on the Secretary's observations, UMTA Administrator Frank C. Herringer added that OCTD had prepared a bus transit needs study program, took over operations of the two bus companies and introduced a 16-bus Dial-A-Ride demonstration project within the City of La Habra without Federal funding. Other innovative measures include experiments with a quarterly pre-paid fare system and their "Two-Bit Bus Line" promotional Campaign stressing availability and service to improve the overall transit image in all 26 highly auto-oriented communities within Orange County.

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The local one-third share will be supplied from a State imposed gasoline tax under the provisions of California Senate Bill 325.

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For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043 or Mr. G. T. Pete Fielding, General Manager, Orange County Transit District, 515 North Sycamore, Santa Ana, California 92701, (714) 834-6190. (UMTA Project No. CA-03-0064)

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