



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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UMTA 73-46
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Secretary of Transportation Claude S. Brinegar today announced a grant of \$3.4 million to the City of New Orleans, Louisiana to assist in the purchase of 108 new 51-passenger buses to implement the initial stages of the region's transit improvement program.

The \$3,389,322 grant made by the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), will be used to replace existing overage buses as the first phase of a comprehensive surface transit improvement program developed by the City of New Orleans in conjunction with the Regional Planning Commission of Jefferson, Orleans, St. Bernard and St. Tammany Parishes. The new buses will be leased by the City to the privately-owned New Orleans Public Service, Inc., which is the primary transit operator in the region.

In making the grant, Secretary Brinegar noted that this carefully developed, well-coordinated transit plan included further equipment and facilities improvements as well as service extensions and operating refinements that would help carry out President Nixon's resolve to assure good public transportation. "Only is this way," the Secretary said. "can we relieve congestion, reduce pollution and conserve our limited energy resources." Secretary Brinegar also observed that this program will encourage the participation of private mass transportation companies in community development projects.

The local one-third share will be provided from revenues received by the gas and electric departments of New Orleans Public Service, Inc.

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For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043 or Mr. Terrence R. Duvernay, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer for Federal Programs, 1300 Perdido Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70122. (UMTA Project No. LA-03-0011)

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