

Barrow to get transit system

JUNEAU—Barrow, which is the northernmost community in North America, will soon have a public transit system as a result of a \$319,000 Rural Highway Public Transportation Demonstration Grant to the North Slope Borough, which was announced recently by H. D. Scougal, commissioner of Highways.

The funds have been provided by the Federal Highway Administration. The borough will manage the system and the department will provide technical support.

The grant provides for the purchase of four mini-buses and funds for the next two years to help meet expenses for evaluation, maintenance, and

driver's wages. The system will use several unique ways to best meet the transportation needs of the Barrow community. Only 10 per cent of the residents have access to a private automobile, and the severe climatic conditions make adequate transportation facilities a necessity. To provide the most efficient transportation, existing services, including school bus and taxi systems, will be incorporated into operations. In most cases door-to-door service will be provided at a cost substantially less than existing taxi rates.

"The department," Scougal said, "is committed to help provide adequate transportation

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Transit system . . .

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for all Alaskans. Many persons, unfortunately, believe that transit and roads can be separated, but actually the two go hand-in-hand. In the long run, the existence of better roads in

Alaska will contribute to the feasibility of public transit. It should also be recognized that public transit is not only for the state's larger communities, but for all communities where mobility is restricted by high prices and a limited number of vehicles.

festivities are:

Chairpersons—John Heffle, Sr.
and George Bell,

Queen Committee—Helen Lee;

Baby Contest—Carroll Drake;

Games—Roger Kunayak and
Jerry Woods with Ray Titus;

Housing—Toni Jones;

Publicity—Tundra Times;

Tickets, Programs,
Concessions, Refreshments—Eva
Heffle and Daphne Gustafson.

"I commend Barrow for its committment to the concept of public transit and am proud of the cooperative efforts that made this grant possible. We look forward to working with the North Slope Borough in making the system a success. Experience gained through this demonstration will help promote development of similar systems in other Alaskan communities.