

## In Ottawa You Can Dial a Bus Portal to Portal for Eighty Cents

In three suburbs of Ottawa, citizens may call a bus instead of a taxi. For as little as eighty cents a round trip, they are picked up and returned to their door by a red and white minibus. The service started in August and now serves 2500 passengers a day, which made it the largest such system in the world until Toronto inaugurated a similar feeder system for its expanding subway this fall. There are two other much smaller phone-a-bus systems operating in suburban areas in southern California as well. The systems do not pay their way and Ottawa authorities do not think it likely that their system ever will. An official of the Ottawa-Carleton Regional Transit Commission said, "The only way we can afford this new service is that the Province of Ontario pays 75 per cent of the cost of the busses and 50 per cent of the operating cost." Still, the city, the province and the customers are well pleased. Mrs. Edith Dunn of Bells Corners said that she had reluctantly decided to get a driver's license so she could take her husband to work and use the

family car to run errands during the day. "Now I don't have to drive and I'm much happier," she said after a bus trip to a Bells Corners shopping centre.

The customers pay forty cents a trip, ten cents above the regular bus fare. If they are willing to reserve the service for at least five days a week, they can buy a pass for \$4, which entitles them to five round trips on the phone-a-bus service plus unlimited use of the regular busses.

Ernest Paine, a Commission official, says he hopes to equip the Telle-Transpo routes with General Motors twenty-one passenger diesels, which will cut maintenance costs. They will cost \$31,000 each, twice the cost of the small school bus type gasoline busses now in use, but their fuel costs will be far less. Paine says that the Commission has had a great number of requests that the service be extended to other neighborhoods. He said the fifty drivers are also well pleased since they avoid the monotony of having to drive the same fixed routes over and over.

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