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The Department of Transportation today announced a grant of \$25.2 million to Chicago's South Suburban Mass Transit District to improve commuter rail service.

The Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administrator Paul L. Sittton said that the grant will be used to improve mass transportation service in Southside Chicago's suburban communities served by the Illinois Central Railroad. The area served extends from the Loop some thirty miles south to Richmond Park and to branch line stations in Blue Island and South Chicago.

The funds will be used to replace the IC's 1926 vintage rolling stock with 130 new double deck, air-conditioned, electric commuter rail cars.

Total cost of the commuter service improvement project will be \$37.8 million, of which the Federal share will provide two-thirds. The South Suburban Mass Transit District will provide one-third of the cost. Of the Federal share, \$6.3 million will be withheld pending satisfaction of certain planning requirements of the Urban Mass Transportation Act.

Project No. ILL-UTG-7

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