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Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe today announced a grant of \$862,610 to the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) to extend electrified commuter railroad service in the Philadelphia metropolitan area.

The Federal grant amounts to one-half the cost of the \$1,725,220 project in which an existing Reading Company line will be electrified and rehabilitated for a distance of 1.8 miles between the communities of Hatboro and Warminster. A passenger station and 500-car parking lot will be constructed at Warminster.

Hatboro now is the outer terminus of a major rail commuter branch of the Reading Company. About 85 percent of its riders reach the station by car, causing traffic congestion and parking problems. Completion of the project will relieve parking and traffic congestion at Hatboro and provide increased accessibility to rail service users in the Warminster area.

"This project is an example of what can be accomplished by joint participation of Federal, State and local Governments with the cooperation of private industry," Secretary Volpe said.

In addition to the Federal grant, financial assistance will be provided by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (\$450,555), Bucks County (\$256,041), Montgomery County (\$85,347) and Passenger Service Improvement Corporation, a subsidiary of the City of Philadelphia (\$109,167).

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The Reading Company has participated in the planning and development of the commuter railroad service which it will operate under contract to SEPTA.

SEPTA estimates the extension to Warminster will be completed and operating within 18 months.

The Federal grant was made by the Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration, headed by Carlos C. Villarreal.

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