



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

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Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe today awarded a \$1.4 million grant to the Institute for Rapid Transit for a three-year study to improve the lot of subway riders.

Secretary Volpe signed the grant following a luncheon address at the IRT's annual convention in New York. The IRT is an industry-wide association of rapid transit operators, manufacturers and suppliers.

Looking on as Secretary Volpe signed the document was Carlos C. Villarreal, Administrator of the Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration which made the grant, and Dr. William J. Ronan, Chairman of New York's Metropolitan Transportation Authority which earlier in the day received a \$20 million grant from the Department to help pay for 120 new rail commuter cars.

"Our subways are hot, noisy and unpleasant," Secretary Volpe said, "We must do something as soon as possible to improve that environment for subway riders.

"This grant is for the first phase of a three-year effort to develop standards for better subways. Hopefully, this study will produce a design manual that will tell subway operators and designers how to control ventilation, air-conditioning, vibration and noise. I consider this a minimum to make subway riding the pleasant experience it should be," he said.

Several engineering and research firms will work with IRT on the design manual. They include Parsons, Brinckerhoff, Quade and Douglas, Inc., of New York; Kaiser Engineers of Oakland, California; DeLeuw, Cather and Company of Chicago; California Institute of Technology of Pasadena, California, and Aerospace Technology and Aero-Space Models of Industry, California.

The \$1,385,777 grant is the first of three planned by the Department of Transportation for the special study. Next year the IRT is scheduled to receive about \$1 million and in the third year about \$435,000.

"This is the first time that the rapid transit industry has banded together to focus their resources on a common problem -- and it's a healthy sign," Secretary Volpe said. "Rapid transit requirements in the United States alone over the next two decades may amount to tens of billions of dollars. The cost of environmental control could reach 8 to 10 percent of the total construction cost.

"The sheer magnitude of the expenditures foreseen makes it imperative to develop techniques to make subways a nice way to travel."

Rapid transit systems are in New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Boston, and Cleveland. Systems are under construction in San Francisco and Washington, D.C., while Atlanta, Baltimore, Buffalo, Cincinnati, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, Houston, Los Angeles, Pittsburgh and Seattle have new systems under discussion.

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