



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20590

FOR RELEASE FRIDAY, P.M.
June 19, 1970

DOT -- 13670
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Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe today announced a grant of more than \$20 million to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority of New York to help the MTA pay for 120 multiple-unit commuter cars for the Long Island Rail Road.

Secretary Volpe announced the grant at a news conference in the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York shortly before making a major address at the 1970 annual conference of the Institute for Rapid Transit.

The grant of \$20,048,000 is two-thirds of the cost of cars the LIRR ordered in mid-1968, the first step of a modernization program that includes the purchase of 350 new cars for the commuter line.

"These cars have speed, comfort and economy in one package," Secretary Volpe said. "Called Metropolitans, they incorporate the latest in rapid transit technology and are capable of speeds of up to 100 miles an hour. They are air conditioned and self-propelled and will be used on the electrified portion of the Long Island line.

"The Metropolitans will allow the MTA to improve the service for the 260,000 people who commute from Long Island. This is the key to getting more automobile drivers to leave the choked highway corridors for the railroad."

The cars, constructed by the Budd Company at its Red Lion Plant in Philadelphia, will be used in pairs. One car will be furnished with wool carpeting, will seat 122 passengers and will be reserved for non-smokers. The other car will have a tile floor, rest room facilities and will seat 118 passengers.

"These cars gain the most in economical and efficient use of available space," said Carlos C. Villarreal, Administrator of the Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration, which funded the MTA grant.

"Expensive duplication is avoided in the car design. All under-floor equipment, such as motor alternators, compressors, batteries and the like serve both cars.

"The new cars will operate over nearly 100 electrified route miles of the railroad, terminating at such points as Port Washington, Babylon and East Williston. They should do much to ease the commuting problems in the New York metropolitan area," Villarreal added.

The Long Island Rail Road is the largest suburban railroad in the New York area and is the only passenger railroad serving Long Island. It has nine outlying branches feeding into three terminals in New York City, including Brooklyn, Long Island and Penn Station. Focal point of the operation is Jamaica.

Upon completion of 29.2 route miles of additional electrification, being constructed with the aid of an earlier \$30 million grant from the Department of Transportation, the new cars will be able to operate as far east as Northport on the Port Jefferson Branch and Pinelawn on the Main Line. Both routes will operate via Hicksville.

The present electrified territory covers 75 of 153 stations on the system. At the completion of electrification extensions, 86 percent of the railroad's daily passengers will originate in electrified territory.

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