



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe today announced a \$1,383,965 Federal grant to the Chicago South Suburban Mass Transit District to assist in the purchase of seven bi-level electric commuter rail cars to be used on the Illinois Central Railroad's Chicago commuter service.

The grant is an amendment to a \$19,952,499 grant to the District to assist in the purchase of 123 identical commuter rail cars.

The grant was made by the Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration. The original grant and today's amendment represent one-half the total project cost. The District will be eligible for an additional \$6,650,832 grant, bringing the Federal share to two-thirds of the total project cost, when full planning requirements under the Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964 are satisfied.

Secretary Volpe said of the grant, "Adequate mass transportation facilities are especially important in the Chicago area. This grant will help insure that the Illinois Central will have sound, up-to-date equipment comparable to the finest used by other commuter rail lines in the area."

Urban Mass Transportation Administrator Carlos C. Villarreal added, "Beginning with the Chicago and Northwestern, the railroads in the Chicago area have been especially innovative in providing clean, modern commuter rail equipment. This grant will mean that the Illinois Central will be able to join with the C&NW, Burlington Northern, Milwaukee Road and the Rock Island in providing these modern, bi-level cars."

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