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# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# NEWS

## URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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The U. S. Department of Transportation today made two grants totaling \$5.7 million to the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) for 100 new buses and the modernization of two Philadelphia subway stations.

The grants, made by the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), will help modernize two stations on Philadelphia's Market Street line, and help provide 75 air conditioned diesel buses for SEPTA's City Transit Division and 25 similar coaches for their suburban Red Arrow Division.

Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe said both grants "are part of our effort to help major cities save and upgrade their public transit systems and make mass transit more appealing to commuters."

The UMTA subway modernization grant for \$3,200,000 will cover two-thirds of the total \$4,800,000 improvement cost, with the remaining one-third provided by SEPTA and the State of Pennsylvania. The project will modernize the 65-year-old Juniper Street and Eighth Street stations and will provide closed-circuit television protection for both facilities.

Today's grant follows a similar grant made by UMTA last January for nearly \$1.9 million to Philadelphia to help modernize six other subway stations on the Broad and Ridge Street lines. The improvement of all eight stations "should increase mass transit ridership and generally improve the Philadelphia community," Secretary Volpe said.

The second UMTA grant, for 100 new 51-passenger buses, will total \$2,560,000, or two-thirds of the total \$3,840,000 project cost. The other third, \$1,280,000, will be paid equally from SEPTA and State funds.

The new buses will replace a similar number of aging vehicles, some of them over 20 years old. Of the 1,600 buses currently operated in the Metropolitan Philadelphia area by SEPTA, 70-percent are over 12 years old and about five-percent have passed the 20-year mark.

Established as a public agency in 1964, SEPTA has consolidated and coordinated the various transit and commuter rail services in the Philadelphia area. Currently, SEPTA carries about one million riders a day on 140 subway, bus and trackless trolley lines covering 2,370 route miles.

"Nearly two million persons in the City of Brotherly Love and millions of suburbanites will benefit from the two grants we are making today," commented UMTA Administrator Carlos C. Villarreal. "Philadelphians can expect new subways, modernized subway stations, new buses and many other mass transit benefits in the near future."

Over the next six years, SEPTA says it plans to spend more than \$800 million to improve its entire public transit operation.

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