



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

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The U. S. Department of Transportation today made a grant of more than \$1 million to the New Jersey State Department of Transportation to cover two-thirds of the cost of a new enlarged and relocated commuter railroad station in Metuchen, New Jersey.

Secretary of Transportation John Volpe said the new station will be relocated 300 feet to the west of the existing station in an area more accessible to commuters. The station's parking capacity will be increased from 650 to 850 cars as a result of the project.

The Federal grant of \$1,014,106 will be administered by the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration. The remaining one-third cost of \$507,054 will be paid by the State of New Jersey and the Borough of Metuchen, bringing the total project cost to \$1,521,160.

Both station platforms will be raised and lengthened from 500 feet to 850 feet to accommodate 10-car trains made up of 90 new commuter cars currently being delivered to the State through the assistance of \$16.6 million in previous UMTA grants.

Passengers no longer will have to climb or descend stairs when boarding or leaving a train at Metuchen, as the new platform height will be identical to the height of the floor of the new cars. Approximately 650 feet of station canopies will be erected over the new platforms. Three pedestrian overpasses and one underpass also will be constructed.

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About 4,500 commuters pass through the station in eastbound and westbound movement on an average weekday. About 65 trains a day stop at Metuchen in the combined eastbound and westbound movement.

Metuchen is a major commuter station located in Middlesex County, N. J., about 27 miles or 43 minutes running time southwest of New York City on the Penn Central's main line between New York and Philadelphia.

An advance feature incorporated into the new station design is a provision for several closed-circuit television cameras to be strategically located in and about the station area and connected by receivers to the Borough Police Station and to the ticket agent's office.

The Borough of Metuchen is cooperating with the State of New Jersey in improving station parking areas and constructing new access roads as part of the project.

In addition to participation in site preparation and property acquisition, the Borough also will pay one-third of the cost of the new television surveillance system.

Secretary Volpe estimated that the entire project, which is part of an overall upgrading of Penn Central's commuter stations, "will save commuters between six and eight minutes during each trip on the New Brunswick line alone."

And UMTA Administrator Carlos C. Villarreal observed that "running times for all commuter trains should further decrease when all 90 new commuter cars are delivered."

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