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NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

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Phone: (202) 426-4043

The U. S. Department of Transportation today released an additional \$35.6 million to the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) of New York City to help cover the cost of 211 new commuter rail cars, which currently are being placed in service.

Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe said the new cars, added to 139 similar commuter rail cars purchased last year, will bring MTA's Long Island Rail Road service up to 620 new self-propelled, electric, multi-unit passenger cars by this coming July 1st.

The Federal government, through the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), is financing \$55,708,333, or two-thirds of the total \$83,562,500 project. Local contributions of \$27,854,167 make up the other third needed to buy 350 of the 620 cars.

The project was approved by UMTA last June, but due to a lack of funds at the time, the government's participation was limited to \$20,048,800, which covered the cost of the first 139 cars. In October, Congress passed President Nixon's \$3.1 billion Urban Mass Transportation Assistance Act, making additional funds available to upgrade, extend and improve new bus, rapid transit and commuter rail systems across the nation.

"Today's grant of \$35,659,533 for the remaining 211 cars comes from the 1970 Act," according to UMTA Administrator Carlos C. Villarreal.

So far, 266 of the 350 new commuter rail cars financed under the Federal two-thirds, local one-third project have been delivered to MTA, arriving at a rate of about 25 a month from the Budd Company's Philadelphia plant. In addition, 270 more commuter cars have been purchased with MTA funds only, bringing the total fleet to 620 cars. These cars replace all pre-World War II electric commuter cars and provide additional passenger carrying capacity.

The new cars will operate along the Long Island's electrified right-of-way between Penn Station in Manhattan and points in Long Island, such as Port Washington, Huntington, Mineola and Babylon. The new cars will carry about 86-percent of the railroad's daily passengers, according to Administrator Villarreal.

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