



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

## URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

# NEWS

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Phone: (202) 426-4043

Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe today announced approval of a \$1,693,500 grant to the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) for new transit planning in the greater Boston area.

The grant, made by the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), will be augmented with \$846,750 in MBTA and local funds, bringing the total project cost to more than \$2.5 million.

A portion of the grant will be used for transit planning in support of the Boston Transportation Planning Review, which will be done under the direction of Massachusetts Governor Francis W. Sargent. The Planning Review will evaluate economic, social, environmental and technical factors associated with the construction of highway improvements in Eastern Massachusetts.

The role of public transit in meeting overall transportation needs will be fully explored as part of the Planning Review, Secretary Volpe said. The Department's Federal Highway Administration is contributing to highway aspects of the Planning Review.

Secretary Volpe said that the Planning Review is designed to prepare specific recommendations on transportation projects in the greater Boston area.

"I am delighted that we can make this grant so that public transportation will be fully considered in preparing these recommendations," the Secretary said.

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Administrator Carlos C. Villarreal of UMTA said that "additional studies under this grant are designed to upgrade Boston's existing transit service, determine future uses for railroad rights-of-way, and develop engineering and design information for specific rapid transit extensions."

"It is our hope that this study will result in better and more efficient transit service for the hundreds of thousands of daily transit riders in the greater Boston area," Administrator Villarreal said.

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For further information, contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043, or, Mr. Joseph C. Kelly, General Manager, Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, 500 Arborway, Boston, Massachusetts 02130.

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