



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

## URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

# NEWS

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Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe today announced a grant of \$60 million to the Port Authority of Allegheny County to assist in the continued development and construction of a rapid transit system for the Greater Pittsburgh area.

The \$60,000,666 grant, the largest single grant ever made by the Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), supplements an initial \$8.7 million grant made to the Port Authority in June 1970, for acquisition, design and engineering work on "Phase A" of the area's Early Action Program.

Today's grant is for "Phase B," which will continue and advance a \$228.5 million project to construct a new-type rapid transit line, two rapid transit busways and to rehabilitate two existing rail transit lines.

In making the grant announcement during a keynote speech at the Fifth International Conference on Urban Transportation in Pittsburgh, Secretary Volpe said:

"This is our second major step in helping Pittsburgh provide first-class mass transit service for all its residents.

"We plan to contribute more than \$152 million to the Early Action Program during the construction and rehabilitation period," the Secretary said.

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The total cost of the Early Action Program is estimated at \$228, 556, 000, with the anticipated Federal share amounting to \$152, 370, 666. A local contribution of \$76, 185, 334 will be shared by the State of Pennsylvania and Allegheny County. The Port Authority plans to apply for additional assistance as the project proceeds.

The Early Action Program includes the following projects:

\*The Transit Expressway Revenue Line (TERL); a completely grade-separated, **automated**, electrically-propelled, rubber-tired rapid transit facility to operate between Pittsburgh's Golden Triangle and South Hills Village, a distance of a little over 10-miles.

\*The east PATway, (acronym for Port Authority Transit Division); for the exclusive use of mass transit buses over an eight-mile route to run between downtown Pittsburgh and suburban Edgewood, mostly along the right-of-way of the Penn Central Railroad.

\*The south PATway; for the exclusive use of mass transit buses on a four-and-a-half mile route to and from downtown Pittsburgh and suburban Overbrook. This project will include construction of a new South Hills Division bus garage.

In addition to the TERL and PATways, the Early Action Program includes the rehabilitation of approximately 13 miles of surface car Route 35 between downtown Pittsburgh and Library, Pennsylvania, as well as rehabilitation of surface car Route 43 between South Hills Junction and Neeld Avenue Loop at the Pittsburgh city line, a distance of approximately two miles.

Administrator Carlos C. Villarreal of UMTA, who will address the International Conference on Urban Transportation tomorrow, said:

"The \$60 million grant which the Secretary announced today will allow us to help the Port Authority continue with design and engineering work on both the Transit Expressway and on the PATways . . . in addition to continuing with land acquisition, other construction and the actual procurement of vehicles." Work on the surface rail line rehabilitation also will be completed under today's grant, Administrator Villarreal said.

Participation in the Early Action Program is part of UMTA's nationwide \$3.1 billion program to save, upgrade and extend existing transit systems, while at the same time develop and demonstrate new and better prototypes of tomorrow's urban mass transportation systems.

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For further information, contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043, or Mr. William L. Henry, Chairman of the Board, Port Authority of Allegheny County, 121 Seventh Street, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222.

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