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**DEPARTMENT OF  
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**URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION  
ADMINISTRATION**

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The U. S. Department of Transportation today made two supplemental grants totaling nearly \$20 million to help purchase 214 new high-speed electric rail cars for Philadelphia and Northern New Jersey commuters.

The combined additional grants, made by the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), went to the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) and to the New Jersey Department of Transportation. SEPTA will receive \$11,311,282 in additional funds to help purchase 144 new commuter cars and the New Jersey DOT will receive \$8,533,333 to help buy their 70 new rail cars.

The supplemental grants bring the Federal share of the modernization program to \$58 million, or two-thirds of the commuter car purchase price. The remaining one-third, \$29 million, will be provided by local contributions and payments, bringing the total cost of the project to approximately \$87 million.

Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe said the new cars will feature the most up-to-date improvements in commuter rail technology and passenger comfort.

"Most of these 214 new cars will replace equipment which is very old -- some of it more than 50 years old.

"We hope these new cars will encourage even more commuters in the Philadelphia and Northern New Jersey areas to use mass transit and put their family cars to better use," Secretary Volpe said.

Today's additional funds for SEPTA, coupled with \$28 million previously obligated by UMTA for SEPTA's 144 new cars, brings the total Federal share of that project to \$39.3 million. The additional \$11.3 million announced today will allow SEPTA to purchase better but more expensive commuter rail cars.

Local funds totaling \$19.6 million will be provided by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the City of Philadelphia, the Counties of Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery and by the Penn Central and Reading Railroads. The two railroads operate Philadelphia area commuter service for SEPTA. The Penn Central will lease 130 of the new commuter cars from SEPTA and the Reading will lease the remaining 14.

The additional funds for the New Jersey DOT will be added to \$10.2 million already obligated by UMTA for the purchase of 45 new commuter rail cars. Today's grant of \$8.5 million will allow the State to buy 25 additional cars, bringing to 70 the number of new rail transit cars which the New Jersey DOT will lease to the Penn Central for use between Trenton and the Pennsylvania Station in New York City. Local one-third matching funds totaling \$9.3 million will come from the State of New Jersey.

Administrator Carlos C. Villarreal of UMTA said the New Jersey rail cars "will provide a greatly increased level of comfort, speed and dependability for Northern New Jersey commuters." Major cities served along this Penn Central route include New Brunswick, Rahway and Newark, Administrator Villarreal said.

All 214 of the new commuter rail cars will be air-conditioned and will have the latest safety and comfort features. Some of the cars will be able to reach top speeds of 100-miles-an-hour. In addition, low-maintenance features are expected to reduce the future operating costs of the cars. Also, automatically-controlled car doors will provide access for both high and ground-level platform passenger loading.

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