



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

NEWS

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20590

FOR RELEASE FRIDAY
February 25, 1972

UMTA 72-5
Phone: (202) 426-4043

Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe today announced a \$25 million grant to the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority to help the MBTA make extensive improvements in Boston's Green Line streetcar system.

The \$25,413,333 grant, made by the Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), will pay for two-thirds of the \$38 million Green Line upgrading project. Local one-third funds of more than \$12.7 million will come from a major mass transit bond issue passed by the Massachusetts Legislature last November.

Just last month, UMTA made two other grants to the MBTA. The first, for \$568,940, will allow MBTA to buy much-needed service equipment, including 10 service trucks, 11 snow plows, 10 administrative vehicles and 17 pieces of shop equipment. The second grant, for \$320,000, was for track relocation and construction work. (UMTA Project Numbers MASS-UTG-21 and MASS-UTG-7 respectively.)

Secretary Volpe said that all three grants to MBTA "were made under President Richard Nixon's Urban Mass Transportation Assistance Act of 1970 which is providing \$3.1 billion over a five-year period to upgrade public transit systems throughout the Nation."

The Secretary said that today's Federal grant "will increase streetcar timetable reliability, capacity, passenger comfort and convenience and provide greater safety and security, in addition to decreasing running time on the Green Line."

- more -



U.S. INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORTATION EXPOSITION
DULLES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT * MAY 27-JUNE 4, 1972

The Green Line streetcar system runs between the western and southwestern inner suburban areas of Boston and the downtown Central Subway area. MBTA's subway, the oldest system in North America, serves the central business district of Boston and connects directly with the Authority's other three rapid transit lines. From the Central Subway, the Green Line extends north across the Charles River to Lechmere Square in Cambridge.

Secretary Volpe said today's grant "will allow the MBTA to improve the Green Line's track and roadway, its stations, power and signal systems and to build new maintenance and repair facilities for the line."

Major aspects of the project will be the replacement of worn streetcar tracks and hardware with new welded rail, the construction of three new power substations, the installation of radio and automatic control systems and the construction of a new Riverside Carhouse.

"In addition, the line's 165,000 daily riders will get heated and modernized stations," according to UMTA Administrator Carlos C. Villarreal. "Many of these riders have the unique advantage of being able to ride the Green Line directly between their homes and their offices without having to transfer."

Administrator Villarreal said that, because of MBTA's past lack of financial resources, "service on the Green Line has not been up to what we and the MBTA would like to provide." The main operational improvement will be an increase in streetcar timetable reliability, Mr. Villarreal added.

— O —

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, 150 Causeway Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02114. (UMTA Project No. MASS-UTG-15.)

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION
ADMINISTRATION

Washington, D.C. 20590

Official Business

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION
ADMINISTRATION



FIRST CLASS