



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# NEWS

## URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

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UMTA 72-6  
Phone: (202) 426-4043

The U. S. Department of Transportation today made a grant of more than \$15 million to the State of Connecticut to help modernize commuter rail service on the New Haven line.

The \$15,100,000 grant, made by the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), will cover two-thirds of the \$22.6 million modernization project. The remaining one-third local share -- \$7.5 million -- will be paid for by State funds which will come from general revenues.

Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe said the project will allow the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation to rehabilitate 49 electric commuter rail cars, update the New Haven's electrical system, build new service and maintenance facilities, modernize the Danbury branch line and begin a program of track modernization.

"This is the second phase in a two-phase plan to modernize the New Haven line," Secretary Volpe said. "The first phase included the purchase of 144 new commuter rail cars and station modernization work."

"This project," said the Secretary, "provides an excellent example of the effectiveness of the Nixon Administration's Mass Transportation Assistance Act of 1970. Through funding made possible under the Act, a commuter facility of vital importance to Connecticut will be thoroughly modernized."

The first phase was undertaken jointly by the New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the State of Connecticut and UMTA.

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

The New Haven line serves southwestern Connecticut and portions of New York's Westchester County with commuter service to and from New York City's Grand Central Station.

Any part of phase two in Connecticut, 49 rail commuter cars which are nearly 20 years old will be completely rehabilitated. When added to 48 commuter cars which the MTA is rehabilitating and the 144 newly-purchased cars, a modern fleet of 241 rail cars will be available for New Haven commuter service.

In addition, major improvements will be made in the New Haven's roadbed, signaling and electrical systems. Also, improvements will be made to commuter stations on the Danbury branch line, including the installation of high-level platforms. Service and maintenance facilities located in New Haven and Stamford, Connecticut also will be modernized.

Administrator Carlos C. Villarreal of UMTA said that the New Haven service, now operated by the Penn Central Railroad, "is one of the most important rail commuter services in the United States. Over 70,000 persons use this service every day."

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For further information, contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043, or the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation, 60 Washington Street, Hartford, Connecticut 16115. (UMTA Project No. CONN-UTG-4.)

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