



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

## URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

# NEWS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR RELEASE SUNDAY  
March 19, 1972

UMTA 72-10  
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The U.S. Department of Transportation today made a \$10.4 million grant to the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) to assist in the modernization of facilities and equipment used for commuter service in Philadelphia.

The \$10,400,000 grant, made by the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), will help SEPTA pay for two-thirds of a \$15.6 million transit improvement program. The remaining one-third costs of \$5.2 million will be paid by SEPTA, the City of Philadelphia and the State of Pennsylvania.

Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe said that today's Federal grant will help pay for improvements on SEPTA's City Transit and Red Arrow Divisions. The UMTA grant is part of President Richard Nixon's Urban Mass Transportation Assistance Act, which currently is providing \$3.1 billion over a five-year period to help save and upgrade transit systems across the Nation, Secretary Volpe said.

Two major projects covered by today's grant are the expansion of Philadelphia's 69th Street Carhouse and the Victory Avenue Bus Facility so that both can service streetcars and buses currently being maintained elsewhere.

The entire improvement project includes modernization of SEPTA's electric power, maintenance shop, vehicle storage and fare collection equipment, in addition to track, cable and overhead power line improvements.

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

Secretary Volpe said that "while most of these improvements will have little public visibility, they are vital to the improved operation of SEPTA's transit system and certainly will benefit Philadelphia area commuters. "

Administrator Carlos C. Villarreal of UMTA said that funds are included in the project for SEPTA to spend \$3.6 million in track, cable and overhead line improvements; \$2.3 million in shop and maintenance improvements; \$1.7 million for power substation conversions; \$1.4 million to improve the 69th Street and Victory Avenue facilities, and \$1.3 million for new fare collection equipment.

In addition, \$3.6 million is included in the grant for the City of Philadelphia to modernize power facilities and make needed replacements on the Broad-Ridge subway system, Administrator Villarreal said.

The two power substations to be converted have antiquated 25-cycle equipment subject to failure at unpredictable times, according to SEPTA records. The substations feed power to the Market-Frankford subway-elevated line, SEPTA's largest passenger line, where a power failure may delay thousands of rush-hour commuters.

"Conversion of the two substations to 60-cycle equipment will lead to improved operation for both SEPTA and the Philadelphia Electric Company," Administrator Villarreal commented.

The SEPTA-operated transit system carries more than one million riders a day over 140 routes in the Philadelphia area. SEPTA operates subway, elevated and surface systems, including nearly 2,000 buses.

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For further information, contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043, or Mr. W.R. Eaton, General Manager, SEPTA, 2028 PSFS Building, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107. (UMTA Project No. PA-UTG-31)

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