



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# NEWS

## URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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The U.S. Department of Transportation today made a grant of more than \$11 million to the State of Connecticut to help modernize commuter rail service on the New Haven Line.

The \$11,400,000 grant, made by the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), will be added to a \$15 million UMTA grant made in March for system modernization.

"Both grants will ultimately result in the laying of 173 miles of welded rail, extensive replacement of ties and track surfacing," according to Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe. The amended project also will include additional modernization of electrical and signaling systems, final construction of new service and maintenance facilities, and upgrading of the Danbury branch line, Secretary Volpe said.

The entire modernization project will cost \$39,750,000, with the Federal two-thirds share paying for \$26.5 million of the project. The local one-third share, \$13.2 million, will be paid by the State of Connecticut from general revenues.

"Today's grant will supplement funds committed to the second phase of 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 Urban 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. 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.

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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, Conn. 06106. (UMTA Project No. CT-03-0004.)

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