



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR RELEASE WEDNESDAY
June 5, 1974

UMTA 74-74
Phone: (202) 426-4043

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) today announced a grant of \$4,274,080 to the North Suburban Mass Transit District (NSMTD) of Skokie, Illinois. The grant will assist NSMTD in making improvements to commuter rail service provided by the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad Company (Milwaukee Road) to the northern suburbs of Chicago. Two new diesel locomotives and five new bi-level rail coaches will be bought and six obsolete, unattractive stations will be demolished and replaced. The improvement program also will include the purchase and installation of a centralized train control signaling system and the equipment of all trains with two-way radios.

Four of the new cars will replace vehicles that have been in daily service since 1942 and one will make extra seats available to the Milwaukee Road's growing number of patrons. The new locomotives are needed to

add two extra rush hour trains in both the morning and afternoon. Centralized train control will allow the line to safely increase the number of trains it can operate during peak periods and will replace an antiquated, inflexible system.

The commuter stations to be replaced were constructed between 1897 and 1918, are eyesores and restrict the flow of pedestrians and traffic. Installing radios in all commuter trains will allow direct, two-way communication between train crews and dispatchers without stopping trains and interrupting service.

The local one-fifth share of the total project cost is being provided by the State of Illinois.

For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043 or Mr. Joseph DiJohn, Executive Director, NSMTD, 4948 Dempster Street, Skokie, Illinois 60076 (312) 677-0091 (UMTA Project No. IL-03-0034)

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