



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

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Contact: Joe Marshall
Phone: (202) 426-4043
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An \$8,000,000 grant for design, engineering and environmental assessment of a proposed 6.4 mile light rail line in Buffalo, New York was announced today by Robert E. Patricelli, Administrator of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA).

Patricelli noted that a decision in principle to provide up to \$269 million to assist in building the light rail transit system in Buffalo was announced last June "subject only to satisfaction of the necessary legal and environmental clearances."

"This grant," Patricelli said, "will assist in the update of earlier environmental impact assessments to reflect a change from the originally proposed heavy rail line to the currently proposed light rail system."

Major changes in the environmental impact include conversion of the State University station from a line to a terminal station, the operation of a line at grade for 1.2 miles through the downtown area, and the construction of a yard facility in an industrial area on the south end of the line rather than a previously proposed location in the Amherst area.

In addition to the environmental impact statement update, the grant provides for general architecture and engineering studies including the preparation of general plans and specifications, additional soils investigations, surveys, mapping, the development of master agreements with governmental agencies, utility companies and other involved parties and other preliminary work necessary to enter into detailed design of specific system segments.

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A local source for additional information is Mr. Chester R. Hardt, Chairman, Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority, 16th Floor, Statler Hilton Hotel, Buffalo, New York 14203, (716) 856-5457. (NY-03-0072).

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