



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

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U.S. Secretary of Transportation Claude S. Brinegar today announced a supplemental grant of \$49, 580, 000 to the Connecticut State Department of Transportation, Hartford, Connecticut, to assist in the purchase of 100 new electric multiple unit commuter rail cars for service on the New Haven Line. Acquisition of the new cars is part of a joint Connecticut, New York modernization program to improve service throughout the area. This grant, made by the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), includes funding necessary to complete the program within the State of Connecticut.

Secretary Brinegar noted that the corridor served by the New Haven line is one of the most heavily traveled commuter lines in the entire United States. A modern, efficient transportation system in this area

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is "essential to the continued urban and commercial development of the region, and has far-reaching effects on the rest of the country," he said.

The new cars will be identical to 144 cars purchased by the State of Connecticut and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority of New York under previous UMTA grants. They now are being phased into service and together with the 100 cars being purchased with this grant will provide a completely modern fleet of 244 cars for New Haven Line service. Ninety-seven cars built in 1954 will be retired on delivery of the new cars.

UMTA Administrator Frank C. Herringer pointed out that Federal participation in the program, with this grant, is \$76,080,000. The project consists of electrical and signal modernization, construction of maintenance and repair facilities, rehabilitation and renovation of right-of-way, purchase of new vehicles and related tasks and equipment.

The Connecticut Department of Transportation and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority of New York are providing the one-fifth local share of this portion of the project cost.

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For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043 or Mr. Colin Pease, Assistant Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Transportation, 24 Wolcott Hill Road, Wethersfield, Connecticut 06109, telephone (203) 566-7044. (UMTA Project No. CT-03-0004-02)