



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# NEWS

## URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR RELEASE WEDNESDAY  
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UMTA 101

Four grants and an advance land acquisition loan totaling \$100,783,180 to Boston's Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) for the acquisition and upgrading of 270 miles of Boston and Maine Railroad rights-of-way, facilities and rolling stock, modernization of 88 rapid transit cars used on MBTA's Red Line, modernization of maintenance facilities, and engineering work were announced today by Robert E. Patricelli, Administrator of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA).

The Administrator noted that three of the grants and the advance land acquisition loan represent the use of highway transfer funds, for mass transit improvements, as provided under provisions of the Federal Aid Highway Act. "More than any other city, Boston has made effective use of Interstate and other Federal aid in improving all aspects of its public transportation system," he said, "I hope other cities will follow Boston's example," he added.

Patricelli emphasized that "the mobility and jobs of thousands of Boston area commuters and local residents depend on reliable public transportation and I am pleased that UMTA has been able to contribute, with today's announcement, over \$625,000,000 to the MBTA's efforts to improve service reliability and comfort over the entire system."

The first grant of \$46,308,960 and companion loan of \$24,172,750 provide for the acquisition and upgrading of 270 miles of right-of-way, facilities and rolling stock in Eastern Massachusetts currently owned by the Boston and Maine Corporation

(MA-23-9006 & MA-23-9010). The Boston and Maine Railroad currently operates a fleet of 84 self-propelled rail diesel cars, providing service to some 19,000 passengers each weekday. "It is essential," the UMTA Administrator added, "that every effort be made to continue and improve this vital commuter service."

The second grant of \$14,099,370 provides for the modernization of 88 Red Line rapid transit cars manufactured in 1963. The modernization program will focus on improved reliability and comfort for the 25 million passengers that use the popular Cambridge to Dorchester line each year. (MA-23-9009)

The third grant of \$3,000,000 provides assistance to the MBTA for engineering work in Boston's Southwest Corridor, where replacement service for the Authority's existing Orange Line rapid transit line is being proposed, and in the Northwest Corridor, where an extension to the Red Line from Harvard Square is under consideration. (MA-29-9001)

The fourth grant of \$13,202,100 is for modernization of facilities at MBTA's 35-acre Charlestown Maintenance Facilities Complex. (MA-03-0016-01). Patricelli emphasized that the grant, "will significantly improve MBTA's plant maintenance capability."

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A local source for additional information is Mr. Robert R. Kiley, Chairman, Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, 45 High Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02110, (617) 722-5000 (MA-23-9006; MA-23-9010; MA-23-9009; MA-29-9001 & MA-03-0016-01)

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