



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION WASHINGTON, D. C. 20590

FOR RELEASE WEDNESDAY
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UMTA 116-74
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U.S. Secretary of Transportation Claude S. Brinegar today granted \$60 million, representing the first transfer for mass transit projects of Interstate Highway Construction funds, to the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority, (SEPTA), of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

A previous transfer of Interstate Highway funds was approved by Secretary Brinegar for the Boston, Massachusetts area, but no specific transit projects were included.

The grant includes \$51 million from the Interstate transfer provisions of the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1973, and \$9 million from the Capital Assistance program of the Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), and will be used for major improvements to Southeastern Pennsylvania's coordinated transit system.

Approval of the project was made possible through the cooperative efforts of Pennsylvania Governor Milton J. Shapp, Mayor Frank L. Rizzo of Philadelphia, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, the Delaware Regional Planning

Commission and the Delaware County Commissioners. The grant "exemplifies the cooperation needed at all levels of government to improve public transportation and otherwise conserve our nation's energy resources," Secretary Brinegar said. The project is a product of a combination of efforts by State and local officials to conserve energy through improved public transportation facilities and to prepare for an estimated 15 million visitors expected in the region during the BiCentennial year.

UMTA Administrator Frank C. Herringer pointed out that mass transit projects will be substituted for a withdrawn segment of Interstate Highway I-695 (Cobbs Creek Expressway), which was to be constructed in Delaware County. Of the projects approved through this transfer of funds, major rehabilitation of the Market Street subway stations at 5th and 13th streets is particularly important because of their location near Independence Mall and City Hall, primary centers of planned BiCentennial activities.

Other improvements within the City of Philadelphia include the rehabilitation of several Market Street Subway/Frankfort elevated stations. Included is the refurbishment of up to 180 PCC type streetcars. Final design and engineering work will be undertaken in readiness for purchase of 100 new light rail vehicles for SEPTA's subway/surface line. Engineering for future construction of a new light-rail maintenance facility and for major rehabilitation of several stations on the Broad Street Subway line will also proceed under the grant.

In addition, the grant will provide sufficient funds to begin a major program to improve commuter rail operations within the SEPTA five-county service area. One-hundred new commuter rail cars will be purchased for operation on the Reading lines. Improvements to power supply, track, signal and maintenance facilities will be completed on both the Penn Central and Reading lines. Commuter rail stations and parking improvements will enhance the attractiveness, safety and efficiency of over 60 stations on these lines. Some 2,500 parking spaces will be added to meet the increased demands of riders who drive their cars to the rail stations.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, City of Philadelphia and Counties of Bucks, Chester, Montgomery, and Delaware, are providing the one-fifth local share of the total project cost.

For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043 or Mr. Ed Totten, Program Development, SEPTA, 12 South 12th Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107 (215) MA7-8200. (UMTA Project Nos. PA-03-0050 and PA-23-9001)

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