



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

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Contact: Joe Marshall
Phone: (202) 426-4043
UMTA 76-32

Two grants totaling \$39,750,400 to the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority of Boston, Massachusetts, were announced today by the Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administrator, Robert E. Patricelli.

The approved grants are for completion of the South Cove Tunnel, initiated with local funding in 1968, and the acquisition and rehabilitation of the Penn Central Midland Branch.

The grants represent a transfer of Interstate Highway construction funds to mass transit improvement projects under provisions of the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1973. In 1974, segments of I-95 and I-695 which were to be located within the Route 128 beltway around Boston were withdrawn and the \$671 million which would have been spent on these segments was released for other transportation projects, including mass transit.

"With the approval of these grants, \$115,479,184 in Interstate Transfer Funds have been released for public transportation improvements in the Boston area," Patricelli said. He stated that "the Commonwealth and local governments are to be congratulated on using the flexibility provisions of the Highway Act, and adjusting priorities and funding to meet current needs."

Administrator Patricelli noted that completion of the South Cove Tunnel project requires Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) funding of \$26,950,400 and extends rapid transit along the Penn Central Shore Line, terminating at Back Bay Station. The project includes construction of the South Cove Station, completion of the South Cove Tunnel, installation of track, power, and signals, and the rebuilding of bridges and related work outside the tunnel.

The extension, when completed, will provide greatly improved transit service in one of the fastest growing areas of downtown Boston. More than 10,000 riders per day are expected to use the new facilities which will provide relief for the presently overcrowded Green Line, which roughly parallels the new extension. (UMTA Project No. MA-23-9005)

A related \$12,800,000 grant is for the acquisition and reconstruction for passenger use of 9.1 miles of Penn Central Railroad right-of-way located between the Readville and South Station sections of the City of Boston. The line, which has seen only freight service for more than 30 years, will be rehabilitated to provide for the re-routing of some intercity and commuter passenger service as well as freight service during construction of the South Cove Extension. The renovated right of way also will provide an alternate route to Boston's South Station for both AMTRAK and commuter rail services after completion of currently planned construction. (UMTA Project No. MA-23-9004)

The local one-fifth share of the cost of these projects is being provided through the sale of revenue bonds by the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority.

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For further information contact Mr. Robert R. Kiley, Chairman, Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, 45 High Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02110, (617) 722-5000.

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