



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20590

FOR RELEASE WEDNESDAY 9:30 A.M.
July 21, 1976

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UMTA 76- 69

Three grants totaling \$60,544,000 to the New York City Transit Authority for the purchase of 124 new air-conditioned transit buses and rapid transit system improvements, including construction of three new power substations and further construction on the 63rd street subway line were announced today by Robert E. Patricelli, Administrator of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA)

"The upgrading of both bus and rail transit facilities made possible by these grants will improve the quality of transportation provided to the millions of New York bus and subway riders," Patricelli noted. "This raises to over \$292.4 million the amount of UMTA capital grant funds made available to the New York tri-state region in fiscal year 1976."

"I am particularly pleased that New York is using Federal Aid Urban System funds for some of these rail transit modernization activities," he continued. "This is the third year that New York has made use of this additional source of Federal funds for mass transit development."

The first grant of \$31,400,000 provides for the purchase of sixty-four new transit buses as replacements for a like number of obsolete buses in operation by the New York City Transit Authority and sixty new buses as replacements for sixty buses being retired by the Manhattan and Bronx Surface Transit Operating Authority. The buses being replaced all were built prior to 1963.

The new air-conditioned buses are part of a planned 290 bus order which is to be put out for bid this summer. The bus improvements also include the purchase of 290 two-way mobile radios.

Rail improvements include the purchase and installation of eight new modular-package type signal enclosure units, new signal equipment, construction of three new power substations and rehabilitation of one existing power substation. Major construction and modernization of the 239th Street and Coney Island Yards and other rail improvements also are included. (NY-03-0095-02)

The second grant of \$18,144,000 represents a transfer of Federal Aid Urban System funds from highway to mass transit projects. These funds are being made available under provisions of the Federal Aid Highway Act of 1973 for modernization of New York's existing rapid transit system. Rehabilitation of structures, track and equipment on the Sea Beach Line between the 8th Avenue and 86th Street stations in Brooklyn and installation of signal equipment at Pelham Bay Park, Dyre Avenue, Flatbush Avenue and 95th Street is included.

Another major improvement is the rehabilitation and modernization of shop yards and maintenance facilities at the Jerome Avenue Yard in the Bronx. Replacement of wooden platforms at the Metropolitan Avenue, Sheepshead Bay, Livonia Avenue and East 105th Street Stations are planned and improvements to escalators and elevators at various locations will be of particular benefit to elderly and handicapped persons. (NY-23-0010)

A third grant of \$11,000,000 will assist in the construction of a portion of the new 63rd Street Subway Line from Manhattan. This section will contain two tracks each for the New York City Transit Authority and the Long Island Rail Road extension to Midtown Manhattan. The grant raises total UMTA funding for the 63rd Street Line to \$331,696,333. (NY-03-0045-06)

A local source for additional information is Mr. Ronald Kane, Director of Public Affairs, Metropolitan Transportation Authority, 1700 Broadway, New York, New York 10019, (212) 262-6900. (NY-03-0095-02).