



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

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UMTA 76-115

\$89 MILLION FEDERAL GRANTS TO NEW YORK AREA FOR EXTENSIVE TRANSIT MODERNIZATION

Five grants totaling \$89,795,000 for extensive modernization and improvement of the New York Metropolitan Area's commuter rail and subway systems and Westchester County's bus system were announced today by Robert E. Patricelli, Administrator of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA). One of the grants will fund a unique waterborne transit demonstration project in which New York was selected in a national competition which included several other cities.

"New York City has the most extensive transit network with the highest ratio of transit to auto users in the entire nation. It is vital that improvements be made to keep this area's transit system working at top efficiency and safety," Patricelli said. "We are pleased to be continuing our record of massive Federal commitments to public transportation projects in the New York area."

"Including the grants announced today," Patricelli noted, "the entire New York-New Jersey-Connecticut urbanized area has received \$1.4 billion in approved capital grants, or some 28 percent of UMTA's total discretionary capital funds." He added, "of this amount, the New York State portion of this urbanized area, including the City of New York, has received over \$1 billion in UMTA's discretionary capital funds and an additional \$60.8 million in Federal Aid Urban Systems (FAUS) funds."

The first grant of \$60 million announced today supplements an \$84.2 million grant made in Fiscal Year 1976 and allows the New York City Transit Authority to continue on its three year transit rehabilitation project. This grant, added to \$15 million from state and local funds, will provide initial funding for the second year of the NYCTA's rehabilitation project.

The New York City subway system modernization covers a variety of projects. The largest sum, more than \$16 million, will be used for construction of four power substations and other related work. Replacement of old power rectifiers with new silicon rectifier equipment will lead to more dependable and more energy-efficient power distribution.

The program also will provide for the purchase and installation of new signal equipment on the Broadway/7th Avenue Line, welding replacements on the 8th Avenue Line, and rehabilitation of the emergency ventilation system in the Steinway Tube connecting Manhattan and Queens. In addition, 175 IRT subway cars will be retrofitted with air-conditioning and a segment of the Broadway/7th Avenue Line will be equipped with smoke detectors and a new ventilation system.

Funds also will be made available for the purchase of 21 diesel buses, rehabilitation of several maintenance facilities, and modernization of the 100th Street Bus Depot. (Park Ave., Manhattan) (UMTA Project No. NY-03-0095)

The second UMTA grant of \$13,640,000 allows the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) to improve tracks and signals on the Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) and the Harlem and Hudson Lines in Nassau and Westchester Counties, New York. The LIRR will use \$3.6 million to improve tracks between Valley Stream and Freeport, Long Island and \$7.2 million will be spent for improvement of signals on the Harlem and Hudson Lines serving Westchester County.

"These improvements will allow increased maximum train speed, will provide a smoother, quieter ride and will reduce the amount of maintenance needed to keep these vital commuter lines in operable condition," Patricelli said. "Track improvements on the Long Island's Port Washington Branch could save about \$13,000 per track mile per year." (UMTA Project No. NY-03-0096)

The third UMTA grant of \$6,360,000 includes improvements of approximately 11.5 miles of track on the Harlem Line between Spuyten Duyvil and Tarrytown, about 13.5 miles of track on the

Hudson Line between Bronxville and North White Plains and track improvements on the LIRR's Port Washington Branch. (UMTA Project No. NY-03-0085-01)

The fourth UMTA grant of \$8,800,000 to Westchester County, New York, will assist in the purchase of 105 new buses and bus related equipment.

Patricelli said, "This project will be the most extensive rejuvenation of bus-related capital equipment ever accomplished in Westchester County and it is the second largest UMTA grant ever made for equipment to be used by private bus operators."

Westchester County will own all the equipment purchased with this grant. The county will lease equipment to the private bus operators providing intra-county mass transportation service. (UMTA Project No. NY-03-0061)

An innovative waterborne urban transit project - the fifth grant announced today - will use air cushion vessels in New York Harbor and in the Hudson and East Rivers. The \$995,000 UMTA grant goes to the Tri-State Regional Planning Commission that will contract with the New York City Transportation Administration for direct operation of the project, which will serve residents of both New York and New Jersey.

The project will evaluate the feasibility of using the Nation's waterways for urban commuter purposes, potentially relieving pressures on existing highways and mass transit facilities. (UMTA Project No. NY-06-0055)

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A local source for additional information about UMTA Project Nos. NY-03-0095, 03-0096 and 03-0085-01 is Mr. David L. Yunich, Chairman, Metropolitan Transit Authority, 1700 Broadway, New York, New York 10019, (212) 262-6900.

For additional waterborne project information, contact Mr. Kevin Tremble, New York City Transportation Administration, (212) 938-3414. (UMTA Project No. NY-06-0055)

For additional Westchester County information contact Mr. Raleigh D'Adamo, Transportation Commissioner, County of Westchester, 148 Martine Avenue, White Plains, New York 10601, (914) 682-3321. (UMTA Project No. NY-03-0061)

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