

# U.S. Department of Transportation

# news:



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UMTA 37-77

With a new section of the Washington, D.C. METRO rapid transit line due to open July 1, U.S. Secretary of Transportation Brock Adams today announced a \$327,995,756 grant to continue construction of the METRO routes.

The grant was made by the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA).

The new Blue Line received funds to continue 4.5 miles of construction from the present terminus at National Airport to Huntington Avenue. Metrorail stations will be built at Braddock Road, King Street, Eisenhower Avenue and Huntington Avenue in the Virginia suburbs.

In Maryland, construction will continue on the Red Line from Tenley Circle to the end of line at Shady Grove. The Red Line was the first subway segment to open in the Spring of 1976. The operating section is a "U"-shape route of about five miles serving downtown Washington.

Red Line construction includes stations at Nicholson Lane, Tenley Circle, Friendship Heights, Bethesda and Medical Center.

In announcing the grant, Secretary Adams commended local jurisdictions for continuing to make funds available under provisions of the Federal Aid Highway Act of 1973 for the regional rapid transit system.

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The Secretary noted that the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area has transferred more Interstate Highway entitlements to substitute mass transit project construction than any other metropolitan area.

So far, some \$900 million has been withdrawn by the District of Columbia and the State of Maryland for this purpose, and, with this grant, over \$728 million of that amount has been approved for Metrorail construction. The Interstate Highway withdrawals that have been approved by the Department include portions of I-270 and I-95 in the District of Columbia and Maryland, and segments of I-266 and I-66 in the District of Columbia.

Activities included in the scope of this grant include purchase of right-of-way and other real estate, construction of facilities, engineering and design services, and purchase of related rail transit equipment.

Yard facilities to serve the Red and Blue Lines will be built in Shady Grove and Alexandria; parking facilities for the Red, Blue and Orange lines will be constructed at the Nicholson Lane, Huntington, Minnesota Avenue and New Carrollton stations, respectively.

In addition, certain contracts for wrap-up insurance, start-up cost utility agreements, system graphics and installation of communications equipment will be covered by the grant.

This grant covers 80 percent of the project cost. Local jurisdictions will provide 20 percent of the cost.

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A local source for further information is Mr. Cody Pfanstiehl, Director, Community Services, Washington Metropolitan Area Transportation Authority, 600 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001, (202) 637-1234. (UMTA Project No. IT-23-9003-01)

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