



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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UMTA 38-74
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Secretary of Transportation Claude S. Brinegar today announced an Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) grant of \$42,492,000 to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) of New York to assist in the extension of the Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) to mid-town Manhattan. The funding includes only those portions of the project that are in common with the New York City Transit Authority 63rd Street Line.

Secretary Brinegar noted that among railroads the Long Island Rail Road is unique in two major respects. First, patronage has remained relatively stable during the past decade and second, most of its revenues are derived from passenger service. Only about 10 per cent of the revenues come from freight traffic. "The LIRR is a vital link in the New York area transportation system," Secretary Brinegar said, "The Line carries nearly 70 million passengers and travels over 1.7 billion passenger miles each year," the Secretary added. The only other mass transportation service on suburban Long Island is provided by bus.

Frank C. Herringer, UMTA Administrator, pointed out that the Long Island Rail Road has played an important part in the development of Long Island. The opening of Pennsylvania Station in Manhattan, the rapid development of New York City's subway system, and more recently, the UMTA funded extension of electrification throughout most of the Western part of Long Island, all served to

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improve access for suburban residents.

Penn Station is the major New York City terminal for the LIRR although there are also terminals in Queens and Brooklyn which provide for transfer to destinations in other parts of New York City. This grant will assist in extending the LIRR from Sunnyside Yards to approximately Third Avenue and East 63rd Street. The extension will be a common structure with the 63rd Street Line of the New York City Transit Authority and is proposed to run from Northern Boulevard, near Sunnyside Yards to 3rd Avenue in Manhattan. It will provide convenient access to riders who work in the East mid-town section of Manhattan.

The one-fifth local share of the project cost will be provided by the State of New York Department of Transportation, and the MTA.

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For further information contact the Urban Mass Transportation Administration, Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043 or Dr. William J. Ronan, Chairman, Metropolitan Transportation Authority, 1700 Broadway, New York, New York 10019. (UMTA Project No. NY-03-0035)

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