



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR RELEASE WEDNESDAY
July 3, 1974

UMTA 115-74
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The U. S. Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) today announced a grant of \$30,000,000 to the City of Philadelphia to begin construction on a high speed rail link between downtown Philadelphia and the city's airport. The line has been designated by the city as a Bicentennial project and every effort will be made to complete it in time to accommodate the large number of tourists expected during the summer of 1976.

Presently the trip from city to airport takes 45 minutes by bus. However, the airport is expanding and traffic is increasing so that congestion around the airport is expected to steadily worsen. By 1985, airport access is projected to be extremely difficult without the rail link.

The city has considered a number of alternative access solutions including exclusive bus lanes and subway extensions. For environmental reasons as well as cost-effectiveness, a rapid-rail link was chosen for a route that would follow, as closely as possible, existing railroad rights-of-way. When completed, the 9 1/2-mile link will cut trip time to 20 minutes and offer convenient downtown transfer connections to other area transit services.

The local one-fifth share of the total project cost is being provided by the State of Pennsylvania and the City of Philadelphia.

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For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043 or William J. Grabske, Deputy to the Mayor for Transportation, 530 Municipal Services Building, Philadelphia, Penna. 19017 (215) 686-7088. (UMTA Project No. PA-03-0043)

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