

U.S. Department of Transportation news:



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UMTA 50-77

Nine grants totaling \$86,765,000 for transportation improvements in the metropolitan Chicago area, including approval of a \$5 million engineering grant for an extension of the Chicago Transit Authority's rapid transit service to O'Hare International Airport, were announced today by U.S. Secretary of Transportation Brock Adams.

The \$5 million grant to the City of Chicago represents the first increment of a \$110 million commitment by the U.S. Department of Transportation to the Chicago rapid transit extension. The eight-mile link will connect the current Jefferson Park Station on the CTA's Kennedy rapid transit line with the airport and will provide important access both for suburban travellers to downtown Chicago, and the for City residents to jobs at or near O'Hare. Once the extension is completed, transit riders would be able to make the 17.3-mile trip between O'Hare and the center of Chicago in only 33 minutes, without transfer, compared to the present auto trip time which often exceeds an hour. The transit line will run in the existing median of the Kennedy Expressway. The grant number is IL-03-0046.

The grants announced by the Secretary today at a press conference in Chicago, include funds for the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA), the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) and the City of Chicago.

The grants, made by the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), also include improvements to commuter rail and bus facilities, for continuation of Chicago's capital improvement program, and for the purchase and installation of security equipment.

The largest grant, \$24,112,000 to the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA), is to help renovate the rails and road bed on the commuter portions of the Illinois Central Gulf railroad, the Chicago and North Western railway, the Rock Island, Milwaukee Road and Burlington Northern. The grant also provides for renovation of the Milwaukee Road and Rock Island bi-level commuter cars and locomotives, renovation of switching equipment, station rehabilitation and other rail improvements (IL-03-0065).

Other RTA grants include \$17,204,384 for the purchase of 280 bi-level commuter rail cars and other assets from the Chicago and North Western railroad. Significant operational savings are expected to occur as a result of the public acquisition (IL-03-0067).

Several suburban communities will benefit from an \$8,608,240 grant to assist the RTA in the purchase of 100 new 45-passenger buses, and 23 vans and small buses specially equipped for elderly and handicapped persons (IL-03-0064).

A \$4,390,768 RTA grant will assist in the purchase of seven new commuter rail diesel electric locomotives on the Milwaukee road (IL-03-0052).

A fifth grant to the RTA provides \$4,255,804 to assist in the rehabilitation of the Rock Island railroad's Chicago branch from Gresham to Blue Island (IL-03-0056). A separate project allows the purchase of fare boxes, service vehicles and bus stop signs with unused funds from previous awards (IL-03-0050-01).

Two grants were made to the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), one for \$16,196,504 and the other for \$6,268,900, to extend work on Chicago's transit improvement program. These grants will help rehabilitate right-of-way, facilities, rail and other equipment, purchase communications equipment and vehicles and for other improvements started about six years ago. With these grants UMTA's investment in Chicago's transit improvement program totals more than \$316 million (IL-03-0066 and IL-03-0062-01).

Another grant to the City of Chicago provides \$728,400 for the installation of security equipment throughout the Chicago public transportation system (IL-03-0055).

Additional information may be obtained locally from:
Mr. Leo J. Cusick, Director of Transportation, Regional Transportation Authority, P.O. Box 3858, Chicago, Illinois 60654, (312) 836-4060. (IL-03-0065), (IL-03-0067), (IL-03-0064), (IL-03-0052), (IL-03-0056), and (IL-03-0050); Mr. Ron Luczak, Manager, Capital Development, Chicago Transit Authority, Merchandise Mart Plaza, P.O. Box 3555, Chicago, Illinois 60654, (312) 644-7200. (IL-03-0066) and (IL-03-0062-01); and Mr. Marshall Suloway, Commissioner of Public Works, City of Chicago, Room 700, 320 North Clark St., Chicago, Illinois 60610, (312) 44-3544 (IL-03-0055) and (IL-03-0046).

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