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DOT AWARDS \$83.4 MILLION TO AID N.J. TRANSPORTATION

Three grants to the state of New Jersey totaling \$83.4 million for both operating assistance to transit systems and improvement of the North Jersey Coast commuter rail line were announced today by Secretary of Transportation Neil Goldschmidt.

• A supplementary grant of \$33.2 million from DOT's Urban Mass Transportation Administration to the New Jersey Department of Transportation brings to \$102.9 million the federal funding for the improvement of the 15-mile Perth Amboy to Long Branch commuter rail line operated by Conrail.

This latest grant will permit the state to proceed with the final design of rehabilitation and electrification from Matawan to Long Branch and to continue electrification from South Amboy to Matawan. The funds also will be used to complete other segments of the project already underway.

• A \$45.4 million grant from UMTA to the New Jersey Transit Corporation covers the payment of the federal share of eligible operating expenses to be incurred by Conrail rail commuting service and 13 bus companies in various parts of the state for the period from July 1, 1979, through June 30, 1980.

• An additional UMTA grant of \$4.8 million to the Corporation brings to \$41.1 million the federal subsidy for operating expenses of the same companies for the period July 1, 1978, to June 30, 1979.

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A local source for further information on the construction grant (NJ-03-0006-03) is Robert Keith, Director of the Office for Transit Development, New Jersey Department of Transportation, 1035 Parkway Avenue, Trenton, NJ 08625, telephone (609) 292-3242. Further information on the operating grant (NJ-05-4023) and (NJ-05-4019-02) may be obtained from Robert Brownstein, New Jersey Transit Corporation at the above address, (609) 292-8989.

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