



**U.S. Department of  
Transportation**

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## DOT ISSUES RULES ON NORTHEAST COMMUTER RAIL TRANSFER

The Department of Transportation today released guidelines for use of \$45 million in Federal commuter rail transition funds. Commuter train service in the Northeast, now operated by Conrail, will be transferred to local transit authorities or the new Amtrak Commuter Services Corporation (ACS).

Today's action by the DOT's Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) implements provisions of the Northeast Rail Service Act of 1981. The Act requires the transfer of commuter service from Conrail by January 1, 1983. It further permits the five local commuter authorities in the Northeast to choose whether they will operate commuter rail service themselves or contract these operations to a newly created Amtrak Commuter Services Corp. (ACS). The sum of \$45 million has been appropriated by the U.S. Congress to facilitate the transfer of operational responsibilities.

The five commuter authorities currently contracting with Conrail for commuter rail operations and affected by this action are: New York's Metropolitan Transportation Authority; the Connecticut Department of Transportation; the New Jersey Transit Corp.; the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority; and, the Maryland Department of Transportation. These five agencies must decide by April 1, 1982, whether to take over commuter rail operations in their regions or contract with the ACS to operate the commuter service.

Today's announcement establishes eligibility criteria for receiving Federal transfer funds, sets forth a formula for allocating available funds for the transfer, identifies activities for which the funds may be used and describes the application procedure for obtaining the Federal funds.

The U.S. DOT has established a 45-day comment period during which interested parties may offer any pertinent recommendations or suggestions on the commuter rail transition assistance plan. Comments should be addressed to: UMTA Docket No. 82-B, Office of the Chief Counsel; Urban Mass Transportation Administration; 400 Seventh Street, S.W.; Washington, D.C. 20590.

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