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Contact: Joseph W. Marshall
Phone: (202) 426-4043

DOT AWARDS \$55.8 MILLION TO PHILADELPHIA TRANSIT

Philadelphia will buy 190 advance design transit buses equipped with hydraulic lifts to permit accessibility by the elderly and handicapped with the assistance of a grant announced today by Secretary of Transportation Neil Goldschmidt. Other grants will help modernize commuter rail lines and rehabilitate five Broad Street subway lines.

The Secretary announced the award of five grants from DOT's Urban Mass Transportation Administration, totaling \$55.8 million, to Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority. They include:

- . \$23,738,252 to assist in the purchase of 190 advance design buses. The 45-passenger buses will be equipped with hydraulic lifts for accessibility by persons using wheelchairs. The grant also helps purchase five smaller buses, spare parts, tools and other maintenance equipment. (PA-23-9003).
- . \$18,903,172 to help modernize commuter rail operating facilities such as the renovation of power lines and signals and the purchase and installation of maintenance equipment.

The project also includes funding for rehabilitation of five Broad Street subway stations. These include the City Hall concourses, South Street station, Ellsworth-Federal station, Tasker station and Snyder Avenue station. (PA-23-9001-02).

- \$3,941,544 to provide assistance in the rehabilitation of 50 trolley cars. The reconditioning program is designed to improve the reliability and safety of the cars. (PA-03-0097).
- \$3,864,800 to assist in the rehabilitation of 50 rapid transit cars for use on the heavily traveled Market Frankford line. The program is expected to significantly improve system reliability, ride quality and passenger safety as well as to produce substantial savings in maintenance costs. (PA-03-0090).
- A grant of \$5,432,000 made to the Delaware River Port Authority, represents funding for the New Jersey portion of the Philadelphia urbanized area to help purchase 46 new rapid transit cars. With today's grant a total of \$44,294,912 has been awarded for the car purchase which was originally approved in 1973.

The project also includes funding for construction of the Woodcrest station, track and shop improvements in the area of Lindenwold. (IT-03-0010). #

A local source for additional information on the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority grants is Peter V. Young, Assistant General Manager for Planning and Development, SEPTA, 12 South 12th Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107, (215) 574-7388. The source for information on the Delaware River Port Authority grant is Jim Costello, Project Engineer, Delaware River Port Authority, Bridge Plaza, Camden, New Jersey 08101, (215) 925-8780.

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