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NORTHEAST NEW JERSEY GETS
\$77 MILLION DOT AWARD
FOR RAIL TRANSIT

Newark, N.J.--Much needed rail transit improvements will soon become a reality in Northeastern New Jersey with the help of \$77 million in federal grants announced today by Urban Mass Transportation Administrator Theodore C. Lutz.

Lutz noted the largest grant, \$62,236,096, goes for rehabilitation of the Morris and Essex Division of the former Erie-Lackawanna commuter railroad. This grant makes funds available for design and engineering, re-electrification and construction on the Gladstone Branch and on the Main Line from Summit to West Wharton, N.J. It also provides for purchase and installation of signal and communications equipment and for power substations to be constructed from Maplewood to Dover and from Jersey City to Orange. With previously approved federal funding a total of \$256,858,988 has been made available for improvements to the Conrail operated, New Jersey Transit Corporation-owned commuter rail line.

A second grant of \$8,223,478 uses provisions of the Federal-aid Highway Act of 1973 to make funds previously designated for interstate roads available for mass transit projects. The grant will be used to purchase and install ballast, welded rail, ties and switches for major track rehabilitation on eight New Jersey Transit Corporation-owned commuter rail lines in Northeastern New Jersey. This is the initial UMTA funding of a five-year track rehabilitation program.

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A third grant of \$6,776,523 also was made under Interstate transfer provisions to supplement previously approved funding totaling \$62.5 million for upgrading rail-transit service in the Raritan Valley Corridor. The improvements include purchase of 57 commuter rail cars, 10 diesel-powered locomotives, spare parts and minor rehabilitation of selected stations.

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A local source for additional information is Mr. Robert Brownstein, New Jersey Transit Corporation, Trenton, New Jersey 08625, (509) 292-8989.

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