



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

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Secretary of Transportation Claude S. Brinegar today announced a \$7.4 million grant to the Chicago South Suburban Mass Transit District which will allow the Illinois Central to phase out the last 15 of its obsolete 1926 commuter rail cars.

The \$7,453,760 grant, made by the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), includes two-thirds funding for the Transit District to buy 15 new double-deck electric commuter cars. The new rail cars, which are in addition to 130 commuter cars currently being delivered to the Transit District with the help of an earlier UMTA grant, will permit the complete retirement of all Illinois Central 1926-vintage rail cars.

In addition, today's grant includes funds for the Transit District to construct a little over two miles of single track extension for commuter service to Park Forest South, with a commuter passenger station at the end of the extended line. This extension will provide direct mass transit rail service to and from downtown Chicago for the town's residents and students of Governors State University.

The UMTA grant also provides funds for the installation of reverse signaling between Homewood and Richton, which will permit the bi-directional operation of commuter cars over both tracks between the two communities, thereby reducing train delays and increasing the line's capacity, according to UMTA Administrator Frank C. Herringer.

As a result of the Illinois Central Gulf commuter rail accident on October 30, 1972 and the ensuing investigation, today's grant is made subject to the following condition:

"Approval of specifications for the 15 new bi-level commuter cars will be held in abeyance by the Urban Mass Transportation Administration pending results of the National Transportation Safety Board investigation of the above mentioned accident and any subsequent safety recommendations which may follow. "

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For further information, contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs, (202) 426-4043, or Mr. R. B. Durkee, Chairman of the Chicago South Suburban Mass Transit District, 148 East 154th Street, Harvey, Illinois 60426. (UMTA Project No. IL-03-0023)

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