



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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Secretary of Transportation Claude S. Brinegar today announced a grant of \$1.35 million to the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) to assist in making mass transit improvements in the Philadelphia urban travel corridor extending from the Center City to Media in Delaware County.

This \$1,357,653 capital grant is one of a series of Federal grants made by the Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), to support programs designed to decrease travel time, improve travel flow, and decongest major traffic arteries throughout this high-density corridor.

Some of the major improvements included in this UMTA project are extensive modernization of the 60th Street Station, building a 69th Street Terminal Busway, and double-tracking the Media Rapid Tramway at Drexelbrook and Bowling Green. Other efforts to improve the quality of service include a terminal announcing board at 69th Street, reconditioning eight Media-Sharon Hill Tramway station buildings and platforms, and the installation of 14 new bus shelters along the corridor.

In announcing the grant, Secretary Brinegar noted that the only way to bring passengers back to rapid transit was to make it attractive, comfortable, and efficient enough to make them want to use it. The Secretary went on to say that this was the kind of project President Nixon had in mind when he said: "Good public transportation is essential not only to assure adequate transportation for all citizens, but to forward the common goal of less congested, cleaner and safer communities."

According to UMTA Administrator Frank C. Herringer, today's grant to SEPTA represents another step towards making mass transit a viable alternative to the private automobile. "The lowest cost at which this can be accomplished," Herringer said, "is by preserving and improving existing transit services."

The local one-third share for this grant is being provided by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and funds from SEPTA's City Transit Division.

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For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043, or the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority, 2028 PSFS Building, 12 South 12th Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107. (UMTA Project No. PA-03-0037)

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