



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# NEWS

## URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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The U. S. Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) today announced the awarding of four capital grants totaling \$38.8 million to the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) to aid in the purchase of new rapid rail cars, trolley coaches, a variety of safety improvements along with several operational and plant improvements throughout North America's oldest subway system.

Specifically, the first of these grants will consist of \$18,410,600 to purchase 80 new rapid transit cars. Thirty-six of the cars to be replaced are Blue Line cars all 49 years old and are the oldest rapid transit cars currently in revenue service in North America. An additional 44 new 65-foot cars will be used on the Orange Line for service expansion and to provide for the anticipated increase in ridership on the Haymarket North Extension and later on the West Roxbury-Needham Extension.

The second grant for \$10,601,640 is to help in MBTA's program to upgrade the entire subway system and is for safety-related improvements and emergency facilities. Included is the installation of a complete A. C. lighting system throughout the subway, purchase and installation of new ventilation equipment, fire protection equipment, and portable radio communications with four new base stations. Additionally, a "Hot-Line" telephone system will be installed along

all rapid transit rights-of-way. These urgently needed safety improvements represent the first major effort towards modernization of the less visible portions of the system in nearly thirty years.

The third of today's four grants is for \$7,933,092 to further improve operating conditions on MBTA's subway system. Included are funds to reconstruct the Watertown Streetcar facility, purchase maintenance vehicles, shop and track maintenance equipment, and numerous plant improvements. Also included are funds for the purchase of 700 two-way radios and a base station. Additionally, construction alternations will be made on the Orange Line to provide clearance for the new 65-foot subway cars.

The fourth grant for \$1,781,500 is to assist MBTA in maintaining trackless trolley service in Watertown, Belmont and Cambridge, and represents Phase I of MBTA's trackless trolley and bus replacement program. Included will be the purchase of 50 new 44-51 passenger trolley-coaches and related equipment and 50 two-way radios. This grant will aid MBTA in responding to local desires to maintain and improve electric, pollution-free service in the three communities.

In announcing these four grants, UMTA Administrator Frank C. Herringer noted that this aggregate of \$38,726,832 would represent a truly major step in modernizing Boston's 76 year old transit system, and would bring about improvements and the needed corrections which were the result of a policy of deferred maintenance and nearly 30 years of neglect before MBTA took over in 1964. Herringer also observed that MBTA's transit system utilizes almost every type transit vehicle currently in service with its 303 streetcars, 352 rapid transit cars, 1209 buses and 57 trackless trolleys over its more than 570 route-miles. Herringer added that with a mass transit service potential such as this, any improvements to any part of MBTA's operation would be of benefit to the entire community.

The local one-third share funds are available from general obligation bonds backed by the towns and communities belonging to the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority.

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For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043 or, Mr. Joseph Kelly, General Manager, Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, 500 Arborway, Boston, Massachusetts 02130. (UMTA Project No's MA-03-0024, MA-03-0025, MA-03-0026, MA-03-0028)