



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

NEWS

FOR RELEASE THURSDAY
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UMTA 73-72
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The U.S. Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) today announced a supplemental grant of \$13.1 million to the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) for the acquisition of the Reading Line from the Boston and Maine railroad.

This \$13,126,410 award is an amendment to a previous grant made in June 1969 and will assist in purchasing 16.9 miles of Reading Line right-of-way extending from the north bank of the Charles River to its termination at Wilmington Junction. Also included in the grant are funds for the acquisition of 15 parcels of land for the construction of Malden Center Station, and for the resulting relocation of 39 households and approximately 45 businesses. Demolition of a wooden drawbridge over the Mystic River is also included in the project.

In announcing the grant, Secretary of Transportation Claude S. Brinegar noted that these funds would be used to purchase land upon which MBTA is already constructing a major extension of its Orange Line transit service. The price to be paid for the land has been in arbitration for several years, and only recently the Supreme Judicial Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts set the price for the Reading Line's 7.9 million square feet of right-of-way at \$18.1 million. UMTA Administrator Frank C. Herringer pointed out that the relocation plan had been approved by the Massachusetts Department of Community Affairs and by UMTA and that its implementation would be jointly supervised by MBTA and the Malden Redevelopment Authority.

This amendment brings the total Federal share for the Haymarket-North Extension of the Orange Line to \$69,988,410. The local one-third share will be provided through MBTA's bonding authority.

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For further information contact the UMTA Public Affairs Office on (202) 426-4043 or Mr. Joseph C. Kelly, General Manager, Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, 500 Arborway, Boston, Massachusetts 02130. (UMTA Project No. MA-03-0005-1)

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