



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

## URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

# NEWS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR RELEASE MONDAY A.M.  
May 26, 1971

DOT -- 11071  
Phone: (202) 426-4043

The U. S. Department of Transportation today made three grants totaling more than \$1.5 million for new urban mass transportation planning in the Philadelphia Metropolitan Area.

The grants, made by the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), went to the City of Philadelphia, the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA), and to the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission.

The three grants total \$1,542,000, or two-thirds of the \$2.3 million it will cost to design improvements for present and future mass transit services for the Philadelphia region. The remaining one-third costs will be provided by the three local agencies.

The first grant of \$342,000 to Philadelphia's Department of Public Property will be used to prepare a detailed feasibility analysis and preliminary engineering plans for construction of a high-speed rail link between Center City Philadelphia and the city's International Airport. Previous studies of ground access to the airport indicate that a transit line is essential by 1973 "to avoid unbearable roadway congestion."

A second grant for \$1 million will help SEPTA develop a master plan for transit improvements. An Immediate Action Program delineating improvements in present routes, scheduling, public information services, stations and vehicles will be prepared for rapid implementation. Subsequent work will outline a program of longer-range improvements, such as new rail extensions or express bus services and a method for continuous planning within SEPTA's organization.

- more -

The third grant gives the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission \$200,000 to support transit planning programming and coordination activities. This grant will enable the agency to continue to meet regional planning needs for transit facilities and operations, thus maintaining the Philadelphia area's eligibility for full funding on all federally-financed capital improvement projects in mass transit. A portion of the \$200,000 grant will be used to help determine public transportation needs for the 1976 Bicentennial Exposition.

In announcing the three grants, Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe said they "will help the Philadelphia area to plan total improvements for the city's overall transit system."

Administrator Carlos C. Villarreal of UMTA said "we fully expect that these plans will help produce an even better Philadelphia area public transportation system."

— O —

For further information, contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION  
Washington, D.C. 20591

Official Business



POSTAGE AND FEES PAID  
URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**