



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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The U.S. Department of Transportation today made a grant of more than \$7.7 million to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) of New York for track improvements on the Long Island Rail Road's commuter lines.

The \$7,709,887 grant, made by the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), will cover two-thirds of the cost of upgrading 50 track miles of Long Island commuter routes. Track improvements will be made from Harold Tower to Mineola, Huntington to Northport and Hicksville to Pinelawn, according to Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe.

Local contributions of \$3.8 million from the Long Island will cover the remaining one-third of the \$11.6 million project. When completed one year from now, the track improvement program will allow 620 new high-performance Long Island commuter cars to operate on the tracks at speeds up to 100 miles an hour.

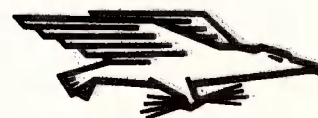
"Heavy-duty welded rails and additional railroad ties, along with higher ballast standards, are necessary to improve the riding quality of high-speed trains and commuter cars," Secretary Volpe said.

Administrator Carlos C. Villarreal of UMTA said "this grant is part of our nationwide program to upgrade and improve commuter rail systems so that the public will find mass transit more attractive and useful to them."

The Long Island track improvement program includes the purchase and installation of a rail-welding plant for the railroad and the purchase of track maintenance machinery. Long Island Rail Road workers will carry out the track replacement project.

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