



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe today announced a \$1.3 million grant to the Tri-State Regional Planning Commission for mass transit systems planning in the States of Connecticut, New Jersey, and New York.

In addition, the \$1,340,000 grant will provide for transit technical studies in Newark, New York City, and Westchester County, N.Y.

The grant, made by the Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration, will be augmented with State and local contributions of \$806,000, bringing the total project cost to \$2.1 million.

In announcing the grant, Secretary Volpe said "this technical study will contribute to the development of improved mass transit systems in a three state region, while at the same time it will detail specific projects for early action and implementation."

The planning region of the Tri-State Regional Planning Commission is unique in its past and continuing reliance upon mass transit and in the overwhelming scale of its mass transit system. One-third of all vehicle transportation in the Tri-State area is provided by mass transit, which also carries one-half of all working commuters in the area.

Subway trips made in the region make up 80-percent of all subway trips in the United States. Mass transit facilities handle ninety-two percent of all rush hour trips into Manhattan, and seventy-seven percent of all daily riders to and from New York.

Suburban residents travel to and from Manhattan mainly by rail and bus, "representing a clear and essential reliance on public transit as the basic means of transportation in the region," Secretary Volpe said.

Capital improvement plans in the Tri-State region now call for the investment of more than \$3 billion in a wide range of rapid transit, rail, bus, ferry, and related projects over the next fifteen to twenty years.

Today's grant will help finance three major projects, according to Administrator Carlos C. Villarreal of the Urban Mass Transportation Administration.

In Newark, planning will be undertaken to provide for expansion of the Newark Subway along Springfield Avenue. The City of Newark, through its Community Development Administration and Model Cities program, will carry out the study jointly with Tri-State, Administrator Villarreal said.

Westchester County will be undertaking a study for improvement of its mass transportation facilities and operation, while at the same time integrating its system to a regional system. The Westchester County Department of Transit will join with Tri-State in conducting this study.

And in New York City, the New York City Planning Commission and Tri-State will develop early action plans for improving mass transportation in the five boroughs of the City. The study will examine these "cities within cities" to determine the most effective mass transportation service for each borough.

Earlier this month, Tri-State changed its name to reflect its expanded role in planning all major public service improvements. Formerly known as the Tri-State Transportation Commission, the organization was limited to planning just for transportation and related land use in the Connecticut, New Jersey and New York area.

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