



U.S. Department of
Transportation

News:

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20590

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, October 26, 1990

UMTA 16-90

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**FEDERAL MASS TRANSIT AGENCY AWARDS
\$42.2 MILLION TO CHICAGO AREA**

The Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) has awarded two discretionary grants totaling \$42.2 million for rail projects in the Chicago area.

The announcement was made today by UMTA Administrator Brian W. Clymer, who said, "The Chicago area has a complex rail system that requires on-going rehabilitation and upgrading to operate safely and efficiently."

The first grant provides \$11.5 million for Phase II of the rehabilitation of the LaSalle Street commuter rail station, which is part of METRA, the Commuter Rail Division of the Chicago Regional Transportation Authority. The project will include engineering, materials and construction associated with the rehabilitation of right-of-way, the signal system, and station structures. UMTA previously provided \$43.6 million for this project.

The second grant of \$30.7 million has been approved for the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), and will help pay for the rehabilitation of track and elevated structure on CTA's rapid rail system. The improvements call for the complete rehabilitation of over nine miles of track on the State Street subway, and the replacement of 900 column bases on the Lake Street and South Mainline elevated rapid transit structures.

The local share of the two projects is being provided by the Regional Transportation Authority.

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