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**UMTA AWARDS MORE THAN
\$176 MILLION IN RAIL
GRANTS TO NEW YORK MTA**

The Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), an agency of the Department of Transportation, has awarded two grants totaling \$176.5 million for rail modernization to the New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA). The announcement was made today by Galen Reser, U.S. Assistant Secretary of Transportation for Governmental Affairs, at a ceremony in New York City.

"These discretionary grants will help the MTA accomplish a number of important objectives," Reser said. "One grant is for \$108.7 million and will help pay for rehabilitation of the track and structures of the Astoria Line, the modernization of the East New York Maintenance Shop and Barn, and the rehabilitation of critically important signal systems in Brooklyn and Queens."

The second grant, which is for \$67.8 million, will be used for projects on the Metro-North Commuter Railroad's New Haven Line in Westchester County and the New York City Transit Authority's Brighton Line in Brooklyn, Reser added.

Speaking to an audience which included New York Sen. Alfonse D'Amato, New York Mayor David Dinkins, and New York City Transit Authority President Alan F. Kiepper, Reser noted that the MTA is providing an equal amount of non-federal funding for the total cost of the projects.

"UMTA Administrator Brian Clymer has made it clear that the high non-federal share of funding was important for both the early consideration and the speedy approval of MTA's applications," Reser said. "Moreover, such a 50-50 partnership between the federal government and the local community is an important example of the relationship envisioned by the National Transportation Policy recently announced by the President and Transportation Secretary Samuel Skinner."

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In March 1989, Secretary Skinner announced that priority consideration would be given to those discretionary grant proposals which have the highest "local overmatch" -- that is, the highest non-federal share of funding in excess of the 25 percent minimum required by law.

"The grants we are announcing today build on the foundation of almost \$6 billion in UMTA funds already awarded to the MTA over the past 2 1/2 decades -- over \$547 million in the past fiscal year," Reser said. "They also reflect the National Transportation Policy goal of refining, not abandoning, the federal role in meeting the nation's mass transportation needs."

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**Urban Mass
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