

Newark Rail Link (MOS-1)

Northern New Jersey

(November 2002)

Description

The New Jersey Transit Corporation (NJ TRANSIT) is constructing a one-mile, five station initial Minimum Operable Segment (MOS-1) of a proposed 8.8-mile, 16-station light rail transit (LRT) system between downtown Newark and downtown Elizabeth, New Jersey. The project also includes procurement of six vehicles. MOS-1 will function as an extension of the existing 4.3-mile Newark City Subway light rail line, running from Broad Street to Newark Penn Station. MOS-1 will serve 13,300 average weekday boardings by 2015.

The total project cost under the Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) is \$207.7 million (escalated dollars). The Section 5309 New Starts funding share for the project is \$141.95 million.

NJ TRANSIT estimates that the entire 8.8-mile project will have a total project cost of \$694 million (1995 dollars) and will carry 24,900 average weekday boardings by 2015.

Status

The Newark-Elizabeth Rail Link (NERL) is being advanced in three stages: MOS-1, a one-mile connection between the Broad Street Station and Newark Penn Station; MOS-2, a one-mile LRT line from Newark Penn Station to Camp Street in downtown Newark; and MOS-3, a seven-mile LRT line from downtown Newark to the City of Elizabeth, including a station serving Newark International Airport. A Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) covering all three stages of the full build alternative was completed in January 1997. A Final EIS addressed only the initial MOS and was completed in October 1998. FTA signed the Record of Decision for MOS-1 in November 1998. In August 2000, FTA and NJ TRANSIT executed an FFGA supporting the NERL MOS-1 project with a revenue operations date scheduled for June 2005. Final Design is approximately 90 percent complete. Construction has started with property acquisition and contract procurement.

TEA-21 Section 3030(a)(57) authorizes the New Jersey Urban Core Project, which consists of eight separate elements, including the Newark-Elizabeth Rail Link, for Final Design and construction. Through FY 2002, Congress has appropriated \$59.39 million in Section 5309 New Starts funds for the project.

Reported in Year of Expenditure Dollars		
<u>Source of Funds</u>	<u>Total Funding (million)</u>	<u>Appropriations to Date</u>
Federal:		
Section 5309 New Starts FFGA Commitment	\$141.95	\$59.39 million appropriated through FY 2002 *
Section 5307 Urbanized Area Formula Funds	\$ 25.30	
State:		
Transportation Trust Fund	\$ 39.80	
Port Authority of NY & NJ	\$ 0.70	
TOTAL	\$207.75	

NOTE: Total may not add due to rounding.

* Includes \$2.97 million in Section 5309 New Starts funds provided in the FY 2001 Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act.

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