

Tren Urbano

San Juan, Puerto Rico

(November 2002)

Description

The Puerto Rico Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW), through its Highway and Transportation Authority (PRHTA), is constructing a 10.7-mile (17.2 km) double-track guideway between Bayamon Centro and the Sagrado Corazon area of Santurce in San Juan. Approximately 40 percent of the alignment is at or near grade. The remainder, aside from a short below-grade segment in the Centro Medico area, as well as an underground segment through Rio Piedras, is generally elevated above roadway rights-of-way. The project includes 16 stations, 74 vehicles, right-of-way acquisition, and construction of a maintenance/storage facility. The Tren Urbano project is expected to carry 113,300 riders per day in 2010.

The total project cost under the amended Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) is \$1,653.60 million. The 5309 New Starts funding share for this project is \$307.40 million.

Status

In 1993, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) selected Tren Urbano as one of the Turnkey Demonstration Projects under the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991. The Tren Urbano project is being constructed and will be operated under a turnkey procurement.

The Tren Urbano Phase 1 environmental review process was completed in November 1995 and included 14 stations. A Record of Decision was issued in February 1996. In March 1996, FTA entered into an FFGA providing a Federal commitment of \$307.4 million in Section 5309 New Starts funds out of a total project cost of \$1,250 million.

Subsequent to the signing of the FFGA, three Environmental Assessments (EAs) were prepared which revised the alignment at the Villa Nevarez station and added two new stations in Rio Piedras at the University of Puerto Rico and in Hato Rey at Domenech Street. The FTA issued Findings of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the three EAs in November 1996, February 1997, and July 1997, respectively.

The FFGA was amended in July 1999 to add the two stations identified in the environmental review process and ten additional railcars with a revenue operations date scheduled for May 2002. The amendment includes \$141.0 million in Section 5307 Urbanized Area funds and \$259.9 million in flexible funds. The revised \$1,653.6 million project cost encompasses the costs for extended project management and construction management services, advanced design development activities, and anticipated costs for claims and contingencies.

The project was also awarded a Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) – part of the TEA-21 loan of \$300 million in recognition of the national and regional significance of the project.

During 1996 and 1997, seven design-build contracts were awarded for different segments of the Tren Urbano Phase 1 system. The Systems Test Track and Turnkey contract, awarded in August 1996, provided for the purchase of rolling stock, design and installation of all system-wide components, construction of one of the civil segments, and operation and maintenance of Tren Urbano Phase 1 for an initial period of five years. FTA has approved an extension of the Revenue Operations Date to June 30, 2004, and is amending the FFGA.

The overall project is approximately 93 percent complete with the guideway approximately 95 percent complete, the track work is approximately 70 percent complete, the systems installation is approximately 30 percent complete, and 30 vehicles have been delivered. To address quality issues, cost escalation and schedule delays, FTA required PRHTA to submit a project recovery plan. PRHTA is currently preparing an amendment to the FFGA to reflect the new budget and revised Revenue Operations Date as well as project financing.

TEA-21 Section 3030(a)(81) authorizes the Tren Urbano project for final design and construction. Through FY 2002, Congress has appropriated \$198.52 million in Section 5309 New Starts funds to the project. This total includes \$4.96 million in prior year funds that are not included in the FFGA commitment.

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	\$307.40	\$198.52 million appropriated through FY 2002 *
Section 5307 Urbanized Area Formula Funds	\$141.00	
Flexible Funding	\$259.90	
Local:	\$945.30	
TOTAL	\$1,653.60	

NOTE: Total may not add due to rounding.

* The appropriations to date reported above include \$4.96 million in prior year Section 5309 New Starts funds that are not included in the FFGA commitment.

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