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**SEPTA officials join County Council
to announce \$50 million in county transit projects**

Stimulus money is just 'the ticket' to revitalize trolley, bus and rail facilities

Rail commuters will soon enjoy additional parking at the Elwyn train station; trolley passengers will enjoy a smoother, quieter ride from Upper Darby to Media; and bus commuters will appreciate remodeled public facilities at the 69th Street Terminal.

And that's just a sampling of the \$50 million in public transit improvements that are literally on-track in Delaware County.

Starting in September, Delaware County passengers who use public transportation will see major renovations taking place thanks to stimulus funding being used by the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transit Authority (SEPTA) to revitalize several SEPTA facilities in the county.

SEPTA General Manager Joseph M. Casey joined Delaware County Council Tuesday, Aug. 18, to present information on all stimulus projects that will take place over the next two years in Delaware County. Casey and his staff arrived in Media by regional rail and on the trolley. The trolley, which dates back to the 1890s, is an aspect that makes Media unique as a hometown and county seat.

"Today we highlight 14 SEPTA projects being funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) that are truly an investment in Delaware County's communities," said SEPTA General Manager Joseph M. Casey. "These projects will improve transportation and invigorate the economy by creating jobs."

Casey was joined by Councilman Thomas McGarrigle in detailing the transit improvements, which include the renovation of stations, installation of new track and signals, and the purchase of 40 new hybrid buses.

"Delaware County benefits from having access to many forms of public transportation and these improvements will make life better for the thousands of residents who use the trolley, trains and buses each and every day," McGarrigle said.

(more)

(SEPTA improvements continued)

“The improvements help revitalize our communities, many of which developed from transit stops along the way, heading west from Philadelphia. This also benefits the environment in making public transit more efficient and cleaner,” McGarrigle said.

The largest project in Delaware County is the multi-faceted Media/Sharon Hill Line (MSHL) Reconstruction Project, which extends from the 69th Street Terminal through Media and Sharon Hill. The work will improve the safety and efficiency of the Route 101 Media and Route 102 Sharon Hill trolley lines, used by about 8,000 and 7,500 daily passengers respectively.

Other SEPTA projects scheduled to begin this year include:

- Renovation of the 69th Street Terminal, including the public restrooms
- Darby Transportation Center rehabilitation, including a new passenger platform and shelter
- Elwyn (R3 Media/Elwyn) Station parking expansion
- Improvement of track bed and construction of supporting structures on R3 Media/Elwyn
- Signage upgrades for 17 stations on the R5 Paoli/Thorndale Line, including Radnor and St. David stations
- Purchase of 40 hybrid (diesel/electric) buses

Casey said there will be temporary disruptions to passengers during the renovations. SEPTA has set up a Hotline at (800) 808-5025 to handle questions, or people can access the SEPTA Web site at www.septa.org.

During the renovations, the regular trolley service will be replaced with shuttle buses along portions of the line. Beginning on Wednesday, Sept. 9, the first phase of work will commence on the Route 102 trolley line for about four months. Shuttle buses will operate between Drexel Hill Junction and Sharon Hill.

Other trolley line improvements include replacement of the 1922-era rail with new continuous welded rail for a quieter, smoother ride; improvement of the highway grade crossings and overhead power systems; installation of fiber optic cable for an audio visual public address system at passenger stations; and structural improvements and vegetation maintenance.

“All of these improvements will make our communities more livable and more successful,” said Councilman McGarrigle, Council’s liaison to the Planning Department, which oversees transit-related issues in the county. “After all, how many towns can boast a trolley line that ends on its main street. We’re pleased to partner with SEPTA to let our residents know about all of these accessible, convenient forms of transportation and we hope our residents take advantage of them.”

