



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

### NEWS RELEASE

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### GOVERNOR TAKES VIRTUAL REALITY TOUR OF HUDSON-BERGEN LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT SYSTEM

Gov. Christie Whitman today demonstrated how the Hudson- Bergen Light Rail Line (HBLRT) will be a world-class transportation system that will mean less traffic congestion, cleaner air, more jobs, higher property values and an improved quality of life when she became the first New Jerseyan to ride the HBLRT Virtual Reality vehicle.

The Governor also accepted a \$20,000 check from Raytheon Engineers and Constructors, representing the company's corporate partnership with Liberty Science Center. Raytheon is the lead company building the HBLRT system.

"Our economy is growing because we are paying attention to what our citizens need to live fuller lives -- like better schools, safer streets, and a first-class transportation system," Gov. Whitman said. "Our economic health hinges on enabling people to travel safely and quickly to work, home or recreation. It also depends on our ability to move goods efficiently with a minimum of cost and delay."

"As the most urbanized state in America, our mass transit system must rival the best this country has to offer," she said. "It does -- and we want to keep it that way. That's why we renewed the Transportation Trust Fund, providing \$3.5 billion in funding through the year 2000 for highway and public transit projects."

The Governor noted that she will soon release a comprehensive strategy to address the state's transportation needs into the 21st century.

Gov. Whitman said that eventually the HBLRT will include 33 stations on its 20-mile route, from Southern Bayonne to Jersey City, Hoboken and Weehawken to the Lombardi service area on the New Jersey Turnpike. When it begins accepting passengers in the year 2000, it will transport 25,000 passengers a day. It will carry 100,000 passengers a day by 2010.

The HBLRT Virtual Reality vehicle is a state-of-the art device which simulates a ten-minute ride through neighborhoods of Jersey City. The Virtual Reality vehicle utilizes three independent laser disc projection screens to simulate both forward and peripheral views through four stops of the HBLRT route.

The Virtual Reality vehicle will be exhibited at the Liberty Science Center later this year to educate children about the HBLRT project and to stimulate their interest in inventions, health, science and technology. Liberty Science Center will be one of the stops on the HBLRT system.

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