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NEWS RELEASE

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Whitman Lays Foundation for New Hamilton Rail Station

Governor Christie Whitman marked a milestone for public transportation in New Jersey today by pouring concrete to begin the second phase of construction of a new commuter rail station and bus maintenance facility in Hamilton.

"This station has been on Hamilton's master plan since 1978," said Whitman, who helped pour the foundation for the Hamilton Transit Complex. "Hamilton has waited long enough. Now we're making sure Hamilton will have a state-of-the-art commuter rail station."

When it is completed in 1998, the Hamilton Transit Complex will consist of the commuter rail station on the Northeast Corridor line between Princeton Junction and Trenton, and a regional maintenance facility for NJ Transit buses, which is near completion.

"This transit complex demonstrates our commitment to public transportation and all it provides, including easier commutes, greater mobility, a stronger economy and a cleaner environment," said Whitman.

Transportation Commissioner John J. Haley said, "This rail facility is more than just bricks and mortar. It's an important step toward the fulfillment of our promise to bring a seamless, interconnected transit system to all New Jersey residents."

The Hamilton station will provide spacious passenger waiting areas, protected platforms, an enclosed crossover bridge, concession services and 1,600 parking spaces to serve an estimated 1,425 riders in its first year of operation. The new NJ Transit bus facility, which will provide garage and maintenance work space for 80 buses, is being constructed to replace the aging Mercer Bus Garage in Trenton.

With convenient access from I-295, Hamilton will be the 14th station on the Northeast Corridor, NJ Transit's busiest commuter rail line. The Northeast Corridor Line serves a number of counties, including Mercer County,

and is used by about 35,000 passengers daily. Princeton Junction is the second most heavily used station on NJ Transit's rail system after Trenton, with the exception of Newark Penn Station.

NJ Transit Executive Director Shirley DeLibero said, "We're very excited about this project, and want to thank Mayor Rafferty for his support. This new station will have a positive impact on rail service and fill the growing demand for additional commuter rail facilities in central New Jersey. With more than 1,000 passengers expected to use the station, it will also ease parking at Princeton Junction."

"The new station will be an important part of the township's economic development," said Hamilton Township Mayor John Rafferty. "This project is an excellent example of state and local government working together for the good of the community."

The \$69 million project is funded with a combination of funds from the federal Interstate Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA), and the State Transportation Trust Fund.

"I applaud the Governor and the entire New Jersey congressional delegation for their continued efforts to ensure reauthorization of ISTEA funding," said Haley. "These funds are critical to the development of our public transportation system."

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