

of America to design and deliver 25 new passenger coaches at a cost of about \$1 million.

Massachusetts

Scheduled for delivery by this time next year are the first of 86 rapid transit vehicles from Bombardier Inc. The cars are for the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority Red Line service in metropolitan Boston.

The 86-car contract is valued at \$132.5 million, and includes an option for as many as 56 more cars to bring the total contract value to \$215 million.

The cars are said to be North America's first major production order of inner-city rapid transit cars using alternating current (AC) electric motor technology.

Virginia

The Virginia Railway Express, which aims to bring rail commuter service to the northern portion of the state, is on schedule for an October startup, according to Tom Waldron, VRE's rail manager.

The service will operate on two routes into and out of Washington's Union Station. One will use the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac tracks into Fredericksburg; the other will traverse Norfolk Southern lines as far as Manassas.

The first of eight GP39-2 locomotives manufactured by Morrison-Knudsen is expected to be received by June, Waldron said. Passenger cars from Mitsui, which are being built in Brazil, are expected to start arriving in August. VRE ordered 28 cars for \$19.8 million.

Current activity is focusing on stations, Waldron said. A total of 13 new stations are being built on the 87 route miles VRE will be operating. Four Amtrak stations at Fredericksburg, Manassas, Alexandria and Quantico are being rehabilitated to accommodate the commuter operation, Waldron said.

Support yard facilities are being built at Fredericksburg and Manassas. Equipment maintenance for VRE will be handled by Amtrak at its Ivy City terminal, near Washington's Union Station.

The agency anticipates 4,500 daily riders for the new service. Waldron said target farebox recovery ratio for the service is 50 percent.

Missouri

When the first Metro Link train rolls in 1993, it will be with the help of several international companies. Siemens/Duewag is the company that won the

contract to build the Metro Link vehicles. Siemens is building 31 six-axle, articulated light-rail vehicles, the first of which is scheduled to arrive in St. Louis in July 1992.

Major design consultants and construction contractors for the project include: Sverdrup Corp., in charge of project and construction management;

Gibbs & Hill, responsible for system design; and LS Transit Systems, responsible for trackwork design.

The system, which is currently under construction, is 18 miles long with 20 stations. Approximately 80 percent of the system will use existing tracks, bridges and tunnels. The total cost of the project is \$313 million. ■

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