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Posted: Tuesday, 12 May 2009 4:08PM

New Light Rail Service Will Link Glassboro, NJ and Camden

by KYW's David Madden

Transportation officials say they're going to bring a major new expansion of commuter light-rail service to the South Jersey suburbs. And this time, they vow, it will get done.

The Delaware River Port Authority has been planning for years to extend rail service into Gloucester County. The DRPA already runs the PATCO Speedline that carries passengers from Camden County into Philadelphia. The agency has weighed the merits of five different routes.

Delaware River Port Authority CEO John Matheussen said on Tuesday that the new line would run from Camden to Glassboro, NJ, making stops in several towns -- including on or near the campus of Rowan University.

The train station in Glassboro, which now serves as a restaurant, would be the end of the line for phase one of the project that will, when complete, have as many as 15 stations starting in downtown Camden, with stops in Gloucester City, Woodbury, Pitman, and Glassboro ([click here for map](#)).

Matheussen says the cost will be around \$1.5 billion, and the state has already committed more than \$500 million from two transportation funds:

"We have a rare opportunity. We're not going to miss it. We have another chance to build that line and much more."

It was not immediately clear where the rest of the funding would come from.

Matheussen says construction could begin in 2010 or 2011, and the line could be carrying passengers as early as 2014.

Other projects on the drawing board include express bus service along Routes 42 and 55, and improving the Atlantic City rail line.

The DRPA plan has support up and down the political food chain, topped by Governor Jon Corzine:

"I give you all my assurance whatever it takes, we're gonna get this done. Whatever it takes, we're gonna get this done."

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