



U.S. Department
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Federal Transit
Administration

Transit Research and Industry News Update Contents - September 2009

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SPECIAL

Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood Kicks Off Historic Summit to Tackle Dangers of Distracted Driving

WASHINGTON DC - Leading the call for a cultural shift in how Americans view safe driving, Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood, on September 30, 2009 challenged over 250 safety experts, industry representatives, elected officials and members of the public to help put an end to distracted driving. The Secretary's call to action kicked off a two-day Distracted Driving Summit in Washington, DC that will highlight the under-recognized dangers of distracted behavior. More online at:

<http://www.dot.gov/affairs/2009/dot15509.htm>

Report to Congress on FY 2008 and FY 2009 FTA Research Projects

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) released its “Report to Congress on FY 2008 and FY 2009 FTA Research Projects.” The report is a response to the House Committee on Appropriations’ request that the FTA prepare a report on all of its sponsored research projects from fiscal years (FY) 2008 and 2009. As a majority of projects received funding in both years, the report does not separate FY 2008 and FY 2009 projects, but is instead organized around the FTA’s Strategic Research Goals. The report describes the funding history, identifies whether the project was congressionally directed or selected at the FTA’s discretion, and provides information on the national relevance of the research, relevance to the transit industry and community, and expected final products and delivery dates. More online at: <http://www.fta.dot.gov/research>

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Camden County MSAA Travel Management Coordination Center Demonstration, Phase 2

FTA Project:	NJ-26-7065
Record Type:	Research in Progress
Funding:	\$700,000
Schedule:	January 2009 – September 2010
Performer:	Camden County Workforce Investment Board 420 Benigno Blvd., Suite B Bellmawr, New Jersey 08031
Contact:	Leona Tanker
Phone:	856-931-9999
FTA Project Monitor:	Aletha D. Goodine, TRI
Phone:	202-366-4148
Fax:	202-366-3765
Email:	Aletha.Goodine@dot.gov

Description. This project supports the efforts of Camden County Workforce Investment Board to develop a replicable and scalable Travel Management Coordination Center (TMCC) as part of the United We Ride and Mobility Services for All Americans (MSAA) Initiative – Phase 2. It will be a more fully coordinated system of transportation that creates efficiencies for riders and providers alike, utilizing intelligent transportation systems technologies. The expected result from this phase of the initiative includes development of three replicable and scalable TMCC that will demonstrate enhanced human service transportation across a variety of operational environments and scenarios. The MSAA Initiative supports the use of intelligent transportation systems technologies to improve transportation services and simplify access to employment, healthcare, education, and other community activities.

Index terms: Travel Management Coordination Center, TMCC, United We Ride and Mobility Services for All Americans Initiative, Transportation

Demonstration of Enhanced Human Service Transportation Model, Phase 2

FTA Project: KY-26-7264
Record Type: Research in Progress
Funding: \$1,469,937
Schedule: January 2009 – October 2010
Performer: Kentucky Transportation Cabinet
200 Mero Street, 3rd Floor
Frankfort, KY 40622
Contact: Vickie S. Bourne
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FTA Project Monitor: Aletha D. Goodine, TRI
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Fax: 202-366-3765
Email: *Aletha.Goodine@dot.gov*

Description. This project supports the efforts of the Paducah Area Transit Authority to develop a replicable and scalable Travel Management Coordination Center (TMCC) as part of the United We Ride and Mobility Services for All Americans Initiative – Phase 2. The expected result from this phase of the initiative is to develop three replicable and scalable Transportation Management Coordination Centers that will demonstrate enhanced human service transportation across a variety of operational environments and scenarios. Paducah Area Transit Authority will have a Call Center for customers within an eight county area for housing, child care, work, school, food stamps, social security and veterans.

Index terms: Paducah Area Transit Authority, Travel Management Coordination Center, United We Ride and Mobility Services for All Americans, Enhanced Human Service Transportation Model, Phase 2

Remote Infrared Audible Signage at Sound Transit

FTA Project: WA-26-7010.03
Record Type: Research in Progress
Funding: \$500,000
Schedule: August 2006 – October 2009
Performer: Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority
401 South Jackson Street
Seattle, WA 98104-2826
Contact: Lisa Wolterink
Phone: 206-689-3359
FTA Project Monitor: Raj Wagley, TRI
Phone: 202-366-5386
Fax: 202-366-3765

Email: *Raj.Wagley@dot.gov*

Description. This project supports the effort of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority (Sound Transit) to conduct a pilot project to purchase, install, and demonstrate Remote Infrared Audible Signage (RIAS) technology at various multimodal and regional transit stations, and in transit vehicles. The project is expected to show the benefits of RIAS technology by providing way-finding and direction information to persons with visual, cognitive, or learning disabilities. RIAS is a system of infrared transmitters and receivers designed to help visually and cognitively disabled individuals navigate through their environment. This project has been independently evaluated by the Volpe Center; the evaluation report will be submitted to the United States Congress by September 30, 2009.

Index terms: Remote Infrared Audible Signage, RIAS, Wayfinding, Navigation System, Visually Impaired, Persons with Disabilities, Puget Sound Transit

Improvements to Morgantown Personal Rapid Transit, Phase 2

FTA Project: WV-26-7001.01
Record Type: Research in Progress
Funding: \$925,160 (funds allocated previously)
Schedule: May 2009 - 2011
Performer: West Virginia University
P.O. Box 6001
Morgantown, WV 26505-6001
Contact: Robert Hendershot
Phone: 304-293-7398
Fax: 304-293-7435
FTA Project Monitor: Marcel Belanger, TRI
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Fax: 202-366-3765
Email: *Marcel.Belanger@dot.gov*

Description. The objective of this cooperative agreement is to support the efforts of West Virginia University (WVU) to deploy energy efficiency improvements to the Morgantown Personal Rapid Transit System (M-PRT). Under Task 2, WVU will design, install, and test a Power Rail Heating System, a Facility Control System, and a Boiler Plant Control System to improve the energy efficiency of the M-PRT. Work effort related to Task 3 will focus on two areas: (1) research and coordination support for the FTA Advanced Small Transit Vehicle Demonstration, and (2) Assessment and Management of Accessory Loads for Fuel Cell and Conventional Transit Buses.

Index Terms: Morgantown Personal Rapid Transit, Automated Guideway Transit, Advanced Small Transit Vehicle, Energy Efficiency, Rail Heating System, Boiler Plant Control, Accessory Loads, Fuel Cell, Transit Bus

FROM THE TRI RESEARCH CORNER

Vision of High-Speed Rail in America

Roy Chen, Engineer in the FTA Office of Technology (TRI-20), has been detailed to work on the Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) High Speed Passenger Rail Initiative. Roy will return from the FRA detail back to the FTA Office of Technology on December 22, 2009.

On April 16, 2009, President Barack Obama, along with Vice President Joseph Biden and Secretary Ray LaHood, announced a new push to transform travel in America, creating high-speed rail lines from city-to-city, reducing dependence on cars and planes and spurring economic development. The President released a strategic plan outlining his vision for high speed rail in America. More online at:
<http://www.fra.dot.gov/Downloads/RRdev/hsrpressrelease.pdf>

Meeting with Kazakhstan Official

On September 17, TRI staff Ronald Boenau met with Ms. Gumirova Sara, Deputy of the Regional Maslihat of the Republic of Kazakhstan to discuss rail issues in Kazakhstan and the United States. Barbara A. Pelletier, Director, International Programs at the Federal Railroad Administration, was present for the discussion which focused on organization, management and funding of the rail systems in both countries and opportunities for public-private partnerships. Ms. Sara was in Washington, DC as part of the "Women in Public Leadership Program" sponsored by Vital Voices Global Partnership. Ms. Sara is the founder and financial director of the Rudny Railroad Facilities, a private rail corporation in Kazakhstan.

New Jersey Transit and MTA/New York City Transit Site Visits

On September 16 – 18, Michael Baltes, Patrick Centolanzi, and Terrell Williams of the Office of Technology (TRI-20) attended meetings and tours at New Jersey Transit and New York City Transit (NYCT) related to innovations and developments in transit bus and rail technologies.

On September 16, at New Jersey Transit's RiverLINE, the group attended meetings and took tours related to lighter-weight passenger trains sharing freight tracks and how to use technology to make shared track temporal separations more productive without compromising passenger safety.

On September 17, at the NYCT Department of Subways, the group attended meetings and took tours related to Communications-Based Train Control, and how these systems can automatically operate subway trains while improving service performance and passenger safety. The group also toured the construction site of the western extension of the Flushing Local Subway.

On September 18, at the NYCT Department of Buses, the tour attended meetings and took tours related to innovations in bus technology. The group explored and rode in a brand new Diesel Turbine Hybrid Electric Transit bus and a new Orion VII Next Generation Hybrid Electric Transit Bus outfitted with the latest Intelligent Transportation Systems suite from Clever Devices. The group observed how Americans with Disabilities Act announcements were automatically made, how the next stop was displayed in the bus, and how new bus arrival displays on 34th Street are operated.

Rail Temperature Measurement Program

On September 23, Henry Nejako and Patrick Centolanzi attended a Federal Railroad Administration Office of Railroad Research and Development Project discussion related to the Rail Temperature Measurement program and how rail temperatures affect rail traffic efficiency and safety. The presentation included research on how to predict rail temperatures on hot days so slow orders can be issued to keep trains safe. A discussion followed about the possibility of implementing Positive Train Control bungalows with mini weather stations to estimate real-time track temperatures and automatically issue slow orders.

Southeastern Transportation Center

On September 24, Lisa Colbert, TRI-20, reviewed and submitted to the Southeastern Transportation Center, an evaluation of a jointly funded project titled: “Analyzing the Effectiveness of Enhanced Penalty Zones and Policy Enforcement as Freeway Speed – Control Measures.” The project is funded by University of Florida, Florida Highway Patrol and the Southeastern Transportation Center, a component of the University of Tennessee. Lisa Colbert is the FTA liaison on the advisory board of the Southeastern Transportation Center.

ECONOMIC RECOVERY

\$100 Million in Obama Administration Economic Recovery Act Funds Charts New Course for Green Transportation

43 Transit Projects Chosen to Reduce Energy Consumption and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

On September 21, 2009, the Obama Administration announced \$100 million in Economic Recovery Act funding for 43 transit agencies that are pursuing cutting-edge environmental technologies to help reduce global warming, lessen America's dependence on oil and create green jobs. Among the projects funded under the competitive bidding, Alabama will replace gasoline and diesel buses with electric hybrids, Massachusetts will construct wind energy generation turbines and Vancouver, Washington, will install solar panels at transit facilities.

“This is a sign of things to come,” said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood, who made the announcement in Atlanta, the site of the largest award.

The 43 winning proposals were submitted by transit agencies from across the country as part of a nationwide competition for \$100 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) funds. The Federal Transit Administration reviewed more than \$2 billion in applications for these *Transit Investments for Greenhouse Gas and Energy Reduction (TIGGER) grants*. More online at: http://www.fta.dot.gov/news/news_events_10555.html

Feds Give MARTA Green Stimulus

Atlanta, GA (WABE) - On September 21, 2009, U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood announced that the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA) is getting about \$10 million to buy solar panel roofs for 22 bus canopies. "These green roofs will provide power that will feed into Atlanta's power grid," said Secretary LaHood. "This in turn will allow MARTA to generate new revenue by selling surplus electricity back to Georgia Power." MARTA is one of 43 transit systems getting TIGGER money from the Federal Transit Administration. In all, the agency is giving out 100 million green stimulus dollars. <http://www.publicbroadcasting.net/wabe/news.newsmain/article/1/0/1556856/Atlanta/Feds.give.MARTA.green.stimulus>

TIGGER Grant to Fund Rhode Island Transit Upgrades

September 29, 2009. The Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA) was awarded a \$345,000 FTA grant under the Transit Investment for Greenhouse Gas and Energy Reduction grant program (TIGGER). The grant money will be used to improve lighting systems at the Chafee Operations, Transportation and Maintenance Facility, the RIPTA Administration Office Buildings, as well as the RIPTA Newport Garage. By converting to more energy efficient systems, RIPTA expects to save \$115,000 in annual electric utility expenses, cutting kilowatt usage at these buildings by more than half. More online at: <http://www.metro-magazine.com/News/Story/2009/09/TIGGER-grant-to-fund-R-I-transit-upgrades.aspx>

To Track Stimulus, A New Version of Recovery.gov

September 28, 2009. A new version of [Recovery.gov](http://www.Recovery.gov), the official government Website for tracking stimulus money, has been unveiled. The revamped site has more maps and more data, but its real test will come at the end of October, when spending reports from hundreds of thousands of stimulus money recipients are due to be posted — a key test for the administration's promise of stimulus transparency and accountability. More online at: <http://www.propublica.org/ion/stimulus/item/to-track-stimulus-a-new-version-of-recovery.gov-928>

ENERGY & CLIMATE CHANGE

Driving and the Built Environment: Effects of Compact Development on Motorized Travel, Energy Use, and CO2 Emissions

TRB Special Report 298, Driving and the Built Environment: Effects of Compact Development on Motorized Travel, Energy Use, and CO2 Emissions examines the relationship between land development patterns, often referred to as the built environment, and vehicle miles traveled (VMT) in the United States to assess whether petroleum use, and by extension greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, could be reduced by changes in the design of development patterns. The report estimates the contributions that changes in residential and mixed-use development patterns and transit investments could make in reducing VMT by 2030 and 2050, and the impact this could have in meeting future transportation-related GHG reduction goals. Findings indicate that more complex development patterns are likely to reduce VMT. TRB Special Report 298 was requested by Congress and funded by the U.S. Department of Energy. More online at: <http://pubsindex.trb.org/view.aspx?id=900352>

FEDERAL RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

2009 Characteristics of Bus Rapid Transit for Decision-Making (CBRT)

This report was updated and prepared by the National Bus Rapid Transit Institute of the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) at the University of South Florida, to provide transportation planners and decision-makers with basic information and data to support development and evaluation of bus rapid transit concepts as one of many options during alternative analyses and project planning. The CBRT report provides an easy-to-use and useful reference tool for transit and transportation planners involved in sketch planning and alternatives analyses. More online at: <http://www.nbrti.org/CBRT.html>

Affordable Housing in Transit-Oriented Development: Key Practices Could Enhance Recent Collaboration between DOT-FTA and HUD

GAO-09-871 is the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) “Report to the Chairman, Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, Committee on Appropriations, U.S. House of Representatives.” The report addresses the federal governments’ interest in linking affordable housing to transit-oriented developments through the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) housing programs and the Department of Transportation’s (DOT) Federal Transit Administration’s (FTA) transit programs. GAO conducted the study to review (1) how transit-oriented developments affect the availability of affordable housing; (2) how local, state, and federal agencies have worked to ensure the availability of affordable housing in transit-oriented developments; and (3) the extent to which HUD and FTA have worked together to ensure that transportation and affordable housing objectives are integrated in transit-oriented developments. More online at: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09871.pdf>

Bus Transit Safety Quarterly Newsletter – Summer 2009

FTA Transit Bus Safety Quarterly Newsletter is a technical assistance newsletter published quarterly by the FTA Office of Safety and Security. This issue's featured article is the new *Bus Transit Safety and Security Website and Resource Library*. The new website is founded on research developed by FTA's federal, state, local, and education partners; it is designed to provide timely, effective, and practical solutions to transit agency safety, security, and emergency preparedness. More online at: <http://transit-safety.volpe.dot.gov/Safety/Bus.asp>

Evaluating the Effectiveness of Widely Available 3-D Visualization Tools in Support of Public Participation

FTA-NY-26-1001-2009.1 was sponsored by the FTA Office of Planning and Environment. The research addressed transit agency's need for improved tools and techniques to facilitate public involvement in transportation decision making. This report documents a survey of transportation agencies regarding use of interactive 3-D visualization for public involvement. Three case studies illustrating application of interactive 3-D visualization are included. The report concludes that the use of interactive 3-D mapping is at the early stages of application as a public involvement tool. Most agencies use the tool for purposes of informing stakeholders, illustrating the location of proposed projects or plans in a regional or study area context, but not for engaging them in a specific dialogue in a meeting or workshop. Order report online from the National Technical Information Service (NTIS) at <http://www.ntis.gov>. NTIS order number PB2009-11478.

A Guide to Planning Resources on Transportation and Hazards

Research Results Digest NCHRP RRD33 – TCRP RRD90 consists of a copy of the "Natural Hazards *Informer*" (No. 4, September 2009) which was prepared under National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Project 20-59 (24) and Transit Cooperative Research Program (TCRP) Project J-10E by the Natural Hazards Center at the University of Colorado at Boulder. The results of this jointly sponsored NCHRP-TCRP project provide a collective overview of hazard-related research and resources needed by transportation and hazards professionals.

The Natural Hazards *Informer* is a series that summarizes current knowledge about various aspects of natural hazards for practitioners, researchers, public policy makers, and others. This issue of the *Informer* introduces a wide range of hazards literature and research nested within "A Guide to Planning Resources on Transportation and Hazards" that applies to transportation-related emergency management works. Case studies that connect research to practice provide real world examples of holistic approaches to disaster management in the transportation field. This issue of the *Informer* was prepared specifically for transportation officials with emergency response preparedness, mitigation, and security duties. But, anyone with interest in current hazards research will

learn something by reading this *Informer*. More online at:
<http://pubsindex.trb.org/view.aspx?id=900864>

Rail Transit Safety Quarterly Newsletter – Summer 2009

Rail Transit Safety Quarterly Newsletter is a technical assistance newsletter published quarterly by the FTA Office of Safety and Security. It is distributed free to members of the State Safety Oversight Community and interested others. This issue's featured article is "Oversight of Rail Transit Agency Track Inspections." The article is intended to provide State Safety Oversight agencies and others with a clearer understanding of the rail transit industry's track inspection processes. Also featured in this edition of the newsletter is the article "Effective Oversight of RTA Track Inspection Processes—A Case Study of the Chicago Transit Authority." More online at: <http://transit-safety.volpe.dot.gov/Safety/Oversight.asp>

Rural Transit Achievements: Assessing the Outcomes of Increased Funding for Rural Passenger Services Under SAFETEA-LU

TCRP Research Results Digest 93 provides useful data and information on the changes in rural public and intercity bus transportation that have resulted from the increases in funding made available through the SAFETEA-LU. This report uses a combination of national, state, and local data and information to highlight the achievements and the beneficial outcomes resulting from increased funding for rural passenger services under SAFETEA-LU. More online at:
<http://144.171.11.107/Publications/Public/PubsTCRPResearchResultsDigestsAll.aspx>

Successes in Stewardship Newsletter, September 2009

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) released its September 2009 Newsletter "Successes in Stewardship." This month's feature story is "The Planning, Environment, Air Quality, and Realty (PEAR) Learning and Development Seminar: Bringing FHWA Disciplines Together," which took place on August 31 through September 3, 2009. The seminar addressed the training needs within FHWA's Office of Planning, Environment, and Realty. The PEAR seminar is designed to help FHWA staff to build and to strengthen professional competencies so that they can continue to serve as national leaders within the transportation community. More online at:
<http://www.environment.fhwa.dot.gov/strmlng/newsletters/sep09nl.asp>

UNIVERSITY RESEARCH

***CUTRLines* Newsletter**

Vol.19, No.2, 2009. *CUTRLines Newsletter* is produced three times a year by the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) at the University of Florida's College of Engineering to inform the public and private sectors about its research and professional activities. This volume of the newsletter highlights the *2009 Characteristics of Bus*

Rapid Transit for Decision-Making. For more information about the newsletter, contact Ms. Wendy Teague at CUTR, 813-974-3120, email: teague@cutr.usf.edu or online at: http://www.cutr.usf.edu/pubs/news_let/cutrine.shtml

Evaluation of Smart Video for Transit Event Detection

The National Center for Transit Research at the University of South Florida has released a report that examines commercial video analytics systems used to fight crime and terrorism in transit environments. Existing video surveillance systems provide the infrastructure only to capture, store and distribute video, while leaving the task of threat detection to human operators. The objective of this research was to study and develop an evaluation framework for commercial video analytics systems. Video analytics can be used to automatically detect complex behaviors and events that are operationally relevant in public transit surveillance, such as suspicious baggage left behind, object exchange, etc. Interested transit professionals and practitioners will learn about some of the common problems prevalent in transit surveillance systems; as well as the strengths, weaknesses, and future directions of research and state-of-the-art commercial video analytics products. More online at: <http://www.nctr.usf.edu/pdf/77807.pdf>

INTERNATIONAL

Balancing Infrastructure Reinvestment with System Expansion

TCRP Research Results Digest 92 summarizes the study mission performed from October 17 to November 1, 2008 under the “International Transit Studies Program.” The digest includes transportation information on the organizations and facilities visited. The digest provides an overview of a study mission that investigated how public transport agencies in Australia are balancing the need to increase capacity and expand service while maintaining and upgrading their existing infrastructure (bus, tram, rail, and ferry). Team members met with public transport officials, government planners, and transit advocates in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth and Brisbane. More online at: <http://www.trb.org/Publications/Public/PubsTCRPResearchResultsDigests.aspx>

Traffic Management for Land Transport: New Policy Brochure

This policy brochure, published by the Transport Research Knowledge Centre, focuses on traffic management for land transport modes in Europe—road and rail. The study addresses the role of traffic management, defined as making more effective use of existing infrastructure for road and rail transport. Research and deployment of Intelligent Transportation Systems are strongly supported at the European Union level as a key tool for traffic management and control, improving safety and user services and reducing the environmental impact of traffic. More online at: http://www.transport-research.info/Upload/Documents/200909/20090915_180031_11989_TRKC%20Traffic%20Management%20for%20Land%20Transport.pdf

Transportation Research Program Administration in Europe and Asia

The Federal Highway Administration, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, and National Cooperative Highway Research Program sponsored a scanning study of Europe and Asia to review transportation research program administration practices. The scan team sought policy initiatives and process improvements to enhance transportation research administration in the United States. The team found that in the countries it studied, transportation research is directly related to national economic growth and competitiveness, transportation research efforts are promoted, and transportation research and development (R&D) is accepted as a valuable contribution to the national good. This study includes team recommendations for U.S. applications. Report number is FHWA-PL-09-015. More online at: <http://www.international.fhwa.dot.gov/pubs/pl09015/pl09015.pdf>

RESEARCH NEWS & RESOURCES

BusCon Brings New Products, Technology to Chicago

BusCon 2009 conducted its 14th convention at Chicago's Navy Pier September 14 - 16, displaying 59 vehicles and hosting more than 130 exhibitors. "America's Convention for Buses"—Bus Con—offered new and green-friendly products to attendees on the show floor, while technical sessions and speakers addressed topics such as driver safety training, alternative fuels, and 2010 engine emission standards. A special track of educational sessions focusing on University Transit-related issues was also featured. More online at: <http://www.metro-magazine.com/News/Story/2009/09/BusCon-brings-new-products-technology-to-Chicago.aspx>

CALSTART Learning Center

The CALSTART Learning Center—both the multi-media display at its headquarters in Pasadena, California and on the Website—tells a story. It tells a story about clean transportation, the technologies, fuels, and systems and why they are important. It tells the story about CALSTART and its mission and role in developing a clean transportation technologies industry to develop solutions that address the global need for clean air, energy security, and reducing the threat of climate change. The Learning Center tells about the companies whose actions are making clean transportation a reality. The Learning Center will be of value to transportation officials and others interested in high tech clean transportation technologies that clean the air, reduce gas emissions, and create energy security by reducing our dependence on oil. More online <http://www.calstart.org/learning-center.aspx>

Cleveland RTA Bans Employees Cell Phone Use

On September 18, the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority implemented a policy prohibiting all employees from having a cell phone on their person while operating a bus or train. The prohibition includes cell phones, smart phones, personal digital assistants such as BlackBerry devices, electronic music devices, wireless headsets or any

other electronic communication or listening device. More online at: <http://www.metro-magazine.com/News/Story/2009/09/Cleveland-RTA-issues-cell-phone-ban-for-employees.aspx>

Chicago Transit Authority Launches Online Vendor Database

On September 28, the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) launched a searchable vendor database on its Website that allows interested parties access to contract information dating back to 2003. Easy access to vendor information and contracts adds to the transparency of CTA's purchasing activities. This database also can be accessed via the City of Chicago's purchasing website. More online at: <http://www.metro-magazine.com/News/Story/2009/09/CTA-launches-online-vendor-database.aspx>

Hybrid Bus Group Selects StarTrans-Azure for National Hybrid Bus Deployment

CALSTART's Hybrid Truck Users Forum (HTUF) Small Hybrid Bus Working Group members have selected the supplier team of StarTrans-Azure Dynamics for a 16-plus vehicle national hybrid electric bus procurement. The 23-foot gasoline-electric hybrid buses are part of a national pilot program to speed commercialization of these fuel-saving vehicles, which are expected to yield 30 to 40 percent reductions in fuel use with an accompanying 30 percent reduction in emissions. The small hybrid buses will operate with at least nine fleets in varying climates, geographies and duty cycles, and their performance will be demonstrated in chassis dynamometer and field testing. More online at: <http://www.calstart.org/Projects/Hybrid-Truck-Users-Forum/Articles/Press-Release-HBUF-Selects-Supplier.aspx>

METRO Magazine 2009 Fact Book

METRO Magazine 2009 Fact Book features an "Industry Outlook" with 9 pages of Industry Statistics, Bus and Chassis Manufacturers, Railcar Manufacturers, 293 Cross Referenced Suppliers, 100 Consultant Listings, 239 Industry Contacts, Multi-Year Editorial Index, and a Transportation Glossary. Industry contacts include state-by-state, national and international listings of organizations serving public transportation, with full contact information. Buy the *Fact Book* online at: http://store.metro-magazine.com/index.cfm?action=main_stage&do=pdet&pid=f5e53062-d5e4-472b-b1d5-e30fe1d5e306#

New York Takes Delivery of 95 NABI Hybrid Buses

A total of 95 North American Bus Industries 40-foot, low-floor, diesel hybrid-electric powered buses are scheduled to replace nearly one-third of Westchester County's fleet by the end of the year. Westchester County placed a follow-on order for an additional 11 hybrid powered low floor buses to be delivered in the spring of 2010. More Online at: <http://www.metro-magazine.com/News/Story/2009/09/N-Y-takes-delivery-of-95-NABI-hybrid-buses.aspx>

Sustainable Mobility: New York Region Ready to Lead

Secretary LaHood on New York City's leadership in Building Livable, Walkable, Bikeable, Communities.

On Thursday, September 24, U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood spoke to the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council. The Council had convened to ratify their 25-year transportation plan for the region. Secretary LaHood said the Council's plan; "A Shared Vision for a Shared Future" gets it right. Transit planners and executives can learn about the Regional Transportation Plan and its shared, long-term vision for the transportation network serving the New York metropolitan area. More online at:

<http://fastlane.dot.gov/2009/09/on-sustainable-mobility-new-york-region-ready-to-lead.html>

Secretary LaHood Launches New Program for Women

While visiting Atlanta-based Spelman College on September 21, US Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood announced the Pilot Entrepreneurial Training and Technical Assistance Women and Girls Program, created to encourage girls to pursue careers in science, engineering, and technology and help women in the field to achieve their goals. The new program, managed by a partnership between the US Department of Transportation (USDOT) and Spelman College, is part of a broader effort, led by the White House, to ensure that federal programs and policies take into account the distinct needs and concerns of women and girls. More online at: <http://www.metro-magazine.com/News/Story/2009/09/Sec-LaHood-launches-new-program-for-women.aspx>

Plug-In Hybrid Electric Fuel Cell Bus Arrives in Montana

The Green Directory of Montana announced the arrival of the Plug-In Hybrid Electric Fuel Cell Bus—the Proterra HFC35. The prototype bus is designed and manufactured by Colorado-based Proterra. The HFC35 can travel 250 miles before recharging, runs at double the fuel economy of a diesel bus, and emits nothing but water vapor from its tailpipes. The City of Burbank was selected as a national test market for the new zero-emissions, ultra-quiet prototype 67-passenger transit bus that features a hydrogen fuel cell. Charging can be done either by the fuel cell system, by regenerative braking or off the electrical grid. More online at:

<http://www.greendirectorymontana.com/articles/plug-in-hybrid-electric-fuel-cell-bus-arrives-195> .

Transit Accessibility e-Newsletter

The September 29, 2009 issue of *METRO Magazine's Transit Accessibility* e-newsletter is available online to the public. It provides practical and timely information for both public and private paratransit operators across North America. This e-newsletter will

include articles that focus on safety and security considerations for serving passengers with specialized transportation needs; latest wheelchair access and restraint systems; advances in online scheduling and automatic vehicle location technologies; and how the industry can meet safety regulations, reduce operating costs, and improve customer satisfaction. More online at: <http://newsletters.metro-magazine.com/TransitAccessibility/?newsID=151>

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