DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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John A. Volpe, Secretary of Transportation, today announced a second award in a Department of Transportation program to develop non-polluting buses for city mass transit service.

Secretary Volpe said, "The Department of Transportation has assigned a high priority to the search for solutions to the problems of air pollution."

The City of Dallas will soon see buses powered by an external combustion engine using freon, a completely safe, non-toxic fluid extensively used in refrigerators, air conditioners, and spray cans. The engine was developed by Kinetics Corporation of Sarasota, Florida. Engineering work is being done by the Vought Aeronautics Division of LTV Aerospace Corporation.

On Monday, February 17, Secretary Volpe announced an award to the California State Committee on Transportation for a research and demonstration project using steam buses in San Francisco and Oakland, the first Departmental grant to study the use of external combustion engines in the effort to reduce air pollution and improve the quality of urban transportation systems.

The Dallas project will cost $464,684 of which the Federal grant from the Urban Mass Transportation Administration will be $309,789. The City of Dallas will pay $114,895 of the project's cost with the balance to be provided by LTV Aeronautics Division in services.

Secretary Volpe praised Dallas for its initiative in undertaking the project. Prior to applying for a demonstration grant, Dallas retained LTV to study a number of external combustion engines.

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LTV selected the Freon engine because it reduced difficulties with freezing, lubricating, starting, and operating at high temperatures and pressures inherent in many older versions of steam engines.

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