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Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe today announced a \$3 million initial development and demonstration grant to the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District to build and test 10 prototype cars for the BART system.

The initial grant covers engineering and system design costs. Ultimately, the Federal grant will be increased to \$5 million to provide for manufacturing the cars, road testing and for any redesign necessary before full production begins.

The grant, made by the Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration, represents two-thirds of the demonstration project's \$7.5 million cost.

On November 21, 1968, the Department announced a \$28 million grant to BART for the purchase of approximately 125 high-speed transit cars. The initial development and demonstration grant being announced today underwrites the cost of prototypes for these vehicles.

"The development and testing of the prototype cars will lead to the introduction of new ideas for efficiency, reliability, and lower first costs" Volpe said. "The procedures should establish new guidelines for the transit equipment industry. Hopefully, future sales of rolling stock will no longer be deemed a high-risk venture," he said.

The BART vehicles are expected to be as attractive, comfortable and reliable as modern technology can make them. To insure that the BART cars run quietly and smoothly, design requirements for sound and vibration are considered the most stringent to date. The prototype program will test the results.

The Bay Area, where outside temperatures can change as much as 40 degrees as a car travels over the system, presents a challenging air-conditioning problem for the BART cars. The prototype program is expected to produce new breakthroughs in this field.

The BART system will be highly automated to insure high-speed on-schedule service. The demonstration project will test automated equipment in the cars and on the system.

Project No. CAL-MTD-14

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