



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20590

FOR RELEASE

Friday, July 17, 1970

DOT -- 15370

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Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe has announced a \$303,244 Federal grant to the Southern California Rapid Transit District (SCRTD), to develop and demonstrate a diesel exhaust emission control system to eliminate smoke and odor and to substantially reduce noise.

"Air pollution is one of the most serious problems facing Los Angeles and other American cities," Volpe said. "This grant is a continuing part of President Nixon's environmental campaign to clean up the air and water in our cities."

In conjunction with the Atomics International Laboratories of the North American Rockwell Corporation, SCRTD will develop a device to catalyze the exhaust and reduce pollutants in bus diesel engine emissions and conduct tests during transit operations. Once developed, the device will be installed on a diesel bus engine and operated over typical bus routes in the District.

The Canoga Park firm will utilize technologies developed in the atomic energy industry. Pollutants are removed from the exhaust gas by a catalytic molten salt scrubber developed to remove pollutants from commercial stack gases.

The grant was made by the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA).

UMTA Administrator Carlos C. Villarreal said of the grant, "This project is extremely important, important to California and to the entire nation, for these reasons:

"First, it shows how it is possible to transfer technology and experience from the aerospace and atomic energy fields to public transportation.

"Second, economic benefits accrue to transportation and to advanced technology from this exchange. It can be especially important for aerospace companies to have new markets.

"And third, the experience to be gained here can be especially valuable to other cities. And not only in the transportation field.

"This project will demonstrate how the aerospace, defense and atomic energy industries can apply their special capabilities toward solving the problems of our cities."

Environmental improvement is one of UMTA's most important programs in California.

One UMTA grant utilizes General Motors Corporation Environmental Improvement Package (EIP) program---emission-control devices for existing GM diesel buses. They recently went into service on four San Francisco buses.

Unlike the catalytic converter, the GM EIP project is basically a super filter capable of removing high amounts of pollutants from bus exhaust. Other cities slated to receive the GM EIP units are Washington, D. C. (four buses), and San Antonio, Texas (three buses).

Also at work in California is a \$1,121,000 UMTA grant to help develop and test steam-powered bus engines. Lear Motors Corporation of Reno, Nevada; William M. Brobeck & Associates of Berkeley; and Steam Power Systems, Inc., of San Diego are developing separate steam power plants for testing in San Francisco, Oakland, and Los Angeles, respectively.

The first test vehicles should be operating on San Francisco or East Bay streets by July, 1971.

Unlike the GM EIP and catalytic converter systems, which are essentially modifications for existing diesel engines, the steam bus engines will be entirely new propulsion devices.

Also, the Department of Transportation is developing a tracked air cushion vehicle (TACV) powered by the zero-pollutant linear induction motor (LIM) program. A grant was recently announced to the Los Angeles Airport Board to determine the feasibility of operation of this revolutionary land transit vehicle between Los Angeles International Airport and the San Fernando Valley.

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