



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# NEWS

## URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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A unique method of propulsion for rapid transit cars will be demonstrated in Cleveland, Ohio, under a grant for nearly \$1.3 million made today by the U. S. Department of Transportation.

The Federal grant of \$1,274,200, made by the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), will provide the first revenue-service test of an alternating current propulsion system for rapid transit, according to Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe.

The Cleveland Transit System (CTS) will use the alternating current system on three of its rail rapid transit cars. CTS also will provide a local contribution of \$526,171, bringing the total project cost up to \$1.8 million.

Westinghouse Air Brake Company (WABCO) will supply the solid state control systems which will take 600-volt direct current from a catenary line (or third rail) and convert it through on-board "inverters" to variable frequency alternating current. The alternating current will drive A/C traction motors on the three transit cars. During braking, the motors will act as generators and send current back into the catenary, instead of dissipating the energy as waste heat.

Administrator Carlos C. Villarreal of UMTA said the A/C system promises to be an extremely smooth control, eliminating the annoying "jerks" frequently experienced in transit cars as they accelerate or slow down.

"The A/C components should save considerable money in maintenance and operating costs over conventional D/C systems," Administrator Villarreal said. "There may be additional savings in the power costs, since the system can send energy generated during braking back into the main power line."

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The grant also includes funds for the Cleveland Transit System to utilize the nationally-known design firm of Peter Muller-Monk to redesign the interiors of three of its rapid transit cars to reflect the latest in passenger amenities. Some of these cars will have the new A/C propulsion system and some will not. Passenger response both to the Westinghouse system and to the new design will be measured to determine how a passenger "perceives" the quality of his ride.

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For further information, contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043, or the Cleveland Transit System, 3420 East 93rd Street, Cleveland, Ohio, 44104.

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