



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

## URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

# NEWS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR RELEASE THURSDAY A.M.  
August 19, 1971

DOT -- 18371  
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The U. S. Department of Transportation today named the Boeing Company as the new system manager for a radical new Personal Rapid Transit (PRT) system currently under construction in Morgantown, West Virginia.

Boeing, of Seattle, Washington, takes over primary responsibility for the Morgantown PRT program from Caltech's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), which has been the system manager since the project got under way in September 1970. The initial overall system design and selection of subcontractors was done by JPL, according to Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe.

"Under direction of the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), Boeing will be responsible for the implementation and testing of the most advanced, fully-automated transit system yet devised to help solve the nation's urban transportation problems," Secretary Volpe said.

Administrator Carlos C. Villarreal of UMTA commended JPL for its excellent management of the program through the system design and subcontractor selection phase.

Principal subcontractors selected by JPL and their specific functions were: The Boeing Company, design and development of vehicles; Sundberg-Ferar, Southfield, Michigan, design of passenger compartments; Bendix Corporation, Ann Arbor, Michigan, design and development of control and communications system; and Fredric R. Harris Inc., Consulting Engineers, Stamford, Connecticut, for design of the power and guideway systems and station structures.

The Morgantown PRT system is a computer-operated, small-car system connecting the two campuses of West Virginia University and the downtown area of Morgantown. The cars will accommodate up to 17 passengers each and will be about 15 feet long.

The initial system is scheduled to start experimental operation in October 1972. Ultimately, the PRT plan envisions a fleet of 70 to 100 rubber-tired vehicles moving along dedicated guideways with "third rail" electric power.

Car speeds will range up to 30 miles per hour. The initial guideway will be 2 1/4 miles long and have three stations. Plans call for expansion of the guideway to 3 1/2 miles and three additional stations.

At peak periods, the cars will be scheduled to meet known traffic requirements. At other times, passengers will have individual selection of stations by pressing a button, as in elevators. Hence, the name "Personal Rapid Transit" has been selected by UMTA.

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For further technical information, contact the UMTA Morgantown Project Office, (202) 426-2896 or the UMTA Office of Public Affairs, (202) 426-4043.

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