



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# NEWS

## URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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Initial demonstrations of low-pollution steam-powered engines in transit buses have been so successful, the Department of Transportation is granting an additional \$683,041 to the California Steam Bus Project to provide for upgrading the performance of the engines and to develop specifications for production prototypes.

Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe announced today that the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) is providing the funds under its research, development and demonstration program. Local funds, provided through the California State Legislature, will provide one-third of the project cost. Total Federal funding for the project is \$2,294,525.

"We are very pleased with progress to date, particularly the potential for low-pollution operation in crowded urban areas," Secretary Volpe said. "It is in line with President Nixon's directive to clean up the Nation's environment." The Secretary pointed out that within a few weeks, three different steam engines will be operating on the streets of three California cities--San Francisco, Oakland, and Los Angeles.

Administrator Carlos C. Villarreal of UMTA said "This next phase of the California Steam Bus Project is designed to improve the performance of these engines, now that their feasibility has been established. The additional tests will provide us with real-world information and demonstrated



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performance with which to develop specifications for a pre-production prototype system."

The unique project is based on a contract between the Federal government and the California State Legislature. "It is an excellent example of cooperation between national and local governments in working together to solve a problem of mutual concern, and is a direct result of President Richard Nixon's \$3.1 billion, five-year mass transit assistance program."

Upon completion of the steam bus project early next Fall, UMTA hopes to proceed into a new project to install a prototype steam engine into a new 40-foot prototype bus.

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For further information, contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs, (202) 426-4043, or the California State Legislature, Assembly Rules Committee, Room 3173, State Capitol, Sacramento, California 95814.

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