



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# NEWS

## URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UMTA 72-82

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Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe today announced that Denver, Colorado, has been selected as the site for the Nation's second demonstration of a revolutionary new Personal Rapid Transit (PRT) system.

The first public PRT system, now under construction in Morgantown, West Virginia, is scheduled to start preliminary testing later this month.

Initially, \$11 million will be allocated by the Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration to build on a firm fixed price basis the first-phase test segment of the demonstration system, including sufficient stations and vehicles to prove the system's dependability and safety.

"Following completion of that phase, and providing Denver can raise the local funding, UMTA will allocate additional funds on a two-thirds local basis to increase the guideway to five miles and the stations to 15. Also, the second-phase funding will enable the city to complete the inventory of 200 vehicles. This portion of the program will take an additional two years," Secretary Volpe said during a luncheon in Denver.

According to the Secretary, the Federal government's decision to fund the initial \$11 million segment was based in large measure on the confidence expressed by local leaders that the Denver region will support the local share of the project's second phase.

"Hundreds of thousands of American and international visitors who came to TRANSPO 72 near Washington, D.C. last summer made PRT demonstrations the most sought-after attraction at the huge and historic transportation exhibition," Secretary Volpe said.

"President Nixon and I have great confidence in this more personalized form of mass transit and know that the Denver program will add significantly to the information now being obtained at Morgantown."

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Secretary Volpe pointed out that President Nixon has placed great emphasis on solving transportation problems, especially at the local level. "This Denver demonstration is evidence of our commitment to see the President's desire brought to fruition," he added.

A local route selection committee with representatives from most local interests has proposed a route alignment that is subject to review and approval by all the people of Denver. If approved, the route will run from Mile High Stadium, across the Platte River, through the Centennial Park, which will replace existing railroad yards, then through the Aurari Education Complex and into downtown.

Once in the Central Business District, the double guideway will separate and become a one-way loop, roughly following 14th, Court, 18th and Lawrence Streets. The guideway will rejoin into a double track and continue from the southeast corner of the loop down Park Avenue and out Colfax to Colorado Boulevard.

Fifteen stations will provide convenient access to roughly 200 vehicles which will provide automatic and very frequent service in small personalized vehicles. System design will provide for coordination with other existing and planned transportation systems including bus, auto, parking, bicycle and pedestrian. The PRT system to be demonstrated could become the first segment of the regional system being planned by the Regional Transportation District.

The Denver region will gain valuable experience in building and operating such a system. The region also will gain immediate benefits as a result of reduced traffic congestion and air pollution.

This project is an integral part of the Regional Transportation District's planning process and will help the people of the seven county RTD region to decide what kind of transportation system they favor.

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For further information, contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043. (UMTA Project No. CO-06-0002)

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