



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe announced today that dedication ceremonies for the Nation's first public Personal Rapid Transit (PRT) system will be held Tuesday, October 24, in Morgantown, West Virginia.

The two-mile PRT system has been constructed as a research, development and demonstration project by the Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA).

Dedication ceremonies will be held at 10:30 a. m. at the PRT system's Engineering Station on the West Virginia University's Evansdale campus. West Virginia Governor Arch A. Moore, Jr. and other state officials, Congressional leaders, West Virginia University and local representatives will join Secretary Volpe on the inaugural ride on the PRT.

"President Nixon has made efficient, safe, clean, economical urban transportation a top priority. PRT systems such as the one in Morgantown are one answer to the urban transportation need," Secretary Volpe said.

UMTA Administrator Carlos C. Villarreal noted that it has been slightly more than one year since ground was broken for the PRT system. "In that short time we have put into place a completely new concept in public transportation," he said.

The initial PRT system in Morgantown includes 2.2 miles of elevated and on-grade concrete guideway serving the Evansdale and central campuses of the University and the Morgantown business district. Five electric-powered rubber-tired vehicles will be used in the system tests. Each vehicle has a capacity of eight seated passengers and thirteen standees.

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Provisions to accommodate handicapped and elderly passengers have been made in the station and vehicle design.

Following the dedication, UMTA will begin full-scale testing of the system.

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Advance arrangements will be required for media covering the dedication ceremony. For further information, contact UMTA Office of Public Affairs, 202/426-4043, or Department of Transportation Office of Public Affairs, 202/426-4526.

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