



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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**NEWS**

## **URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION**

**WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590**

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UMTA 47-74  
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The U.S. Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) today announced delivery of the first units of three competing Transbus vehicles to Phoenix, Arizona, for testing.

UMTA Administrator Frank C. Herringer called the delivery an important step in the Department's \$26 million program to provide effective alternatives to the private automobile. "Transbus incorporates the first basic changes made in urban transit buses in more than fifteen years," Herringer said. The vehicles incorporate features such as wider doors than found on today's buses, safety bumpers and extra strong body construction to increase the personal safety of passengers. The low floor, with shorter lighted steps, is designed for easier and safer boarding of all passengers, particularly the elderly and handicapped.

The bus interiors feature roomier seats, improved lighting, safety handholds and strategically placed and padded bulkheads to protect passengers from falling.

The prototype manufacturers are AM General Corporation of Wayne, Michigan, General Motors Truck and Coach Division of Pontiac, Michigan and Rohr Industries of Chula Vista, California. Booz-Allen Applied Research is the prime contractor on the project for the Department of Transportation.

The initial testing of the first three vehicles of each design will be conducted by Ultrasystems, Inc., Dynamic Science Division of Phoenix, Arizona, under the direction of Booz-Allen. Testing of acceleration, braking, handling, and ride quality measurements will be followed by an extensive 9-month test program which will include evaluations of such vehicle characteristics as durability,

repairability, noise, smoke and odor emissions, and passenger comfort and convenience.

The detailed engineering test program will be complemented by in-service demonstrations of each of the three Transbus vehicles later this year in the cities of Miami, New York, Kansas City and Seattle. The program is scheduled for conclusion in 1975.

For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043. (UMTA Project No. IT-06-0025)

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