



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20590

FOR RELEASE WEDNESDAY
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UMTA 109-74
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The U. S. Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) today announced two grants totaling \$703,304 to demonstrate and evaluate double deck buses operating in daily revenue service. The demonstrations will be held in Los Angeles, California and New York City, New York.

The Southern California Rapid Transit District of Los Angeles will receive \$287,320 to purchase two double deck transit buses for operation in commuter and special service on the El Monte Busway and on the freeways in the Los Angeles area. The buses are being acquired from Gottlob Auwater K. H., Stuttgart, Germany, manufacturer of transit buses and coaches under the name "Neoplan." The buses will be fitted with American drive train and air-conditioning components. (UMTA Project No. CA-06-0069)

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority of New York City will receive \$415,984 to purchase four double deck buses for operation on Manhattan Island. These buses will operate in arterial service with heavy ridership, frequent boarding and exiting of riders, and with relatively short spacing between stops. They will be acquired from the Truck and Bus Division of British Leyland U. K., Ltd., Leyland, Lancashire, England. These buses also will be equipped with air-conditioning. (UMTA Project No. NY-06-0044)

UMTA Administrator Frank C. Herringer noted that the projects will give riders an in-depth exposure to double deck vehicles, unfamiliar to most Americans, and will permit them to experience and react to the special aspects of the unique buses.

The demonstrations will provide vital information on potential cost savings and reducing crowding of riders at peak hours by the use of the high capacity vehicles. Double deck buses occupy approximately half the road space of single deck buses for equivalent passenger loads. They promise significant reductions in traffic congestion and substantial savings in labor costs. Safety of riders with respect to passenger injury from falls and the exposure of passengers to crime and vandalism also will receive close attention to determine the extent of the risk and counter-measures to assure safety.

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For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043 or Mr. Frank Barnes, Southern California Rapid Transit District, 1060 South Broadway, Los Angeles, California 90015, telephone (213) 749-6977 for CA-06-0069 and Mr. Jim Garrison, Metropolitan Transportation Authority, 1700 Broadway, New York, New York 10019, telephone (212) 262-8550 for NY-06-0044.

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