



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR RELEASE FRIDAY A.M.
November 8, 1974

UMTA 136-74
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Today, prototypes of the world's most advanced city transit buses were introduced in Miami for their first test in actual revenue service. The three buses, developed through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) TRANSBUS program represent competing designs of a vehicle to open a new era in city bus transportation.

Each bus incorporates safety, comfort, and reliability features that sets it apart from all preceding generations of transit buses. Transbuses pull up to a stop with one tenth the noise and half the odor of present buses, as outside speakers announce destination and transfer information. Lower floors and wider doors allow quick, convenient access to an interior brightened by twice the window area of present buses. TRANSBUS seats are roomier and more widely spaced and advanced suspension systems offer a ride comparable to that of a luxury automobile. Comprehensive safety features will dramatically reduce the shock of accident impact and likelihood of passenger injury.

During their demonstration tour in the Miami area, the three TRANSBUS prototypes, in cooperation with Miami's Metro Transit Agency will enter regular revenue service on selected metro lines and will be displayed at several area shopping centers. During all demonstration phases, opinions of riders, pedestrians, drivers and mechanics will be solicited. Following their public evaluation in Miami, the three buses will undergo similar testing in New York City, Kansas City, and Seattle. The present series of user evaluations follows months of gruelling engineering tests at proving grounds in Phoenix, Arizona.

Booz Allen & Hamilton of Bethesda, Maryland is UMTA's prime contractor for the TRANSBUS program and will supervise data collection in the four cities. The three 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.

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