



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

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Today, for the first time in more than fifteen years, New Yorkers were introduced to a new generation of urban transit buses.

Prototypes of "TRANSBUS", the world's most advanced transit bus design, were introduced to New York for testing and evaluation in actual revenue service at ceremonies held today at New York's City Hall. The ceremonies were attended by New York Mayor Abraham D. Beame, Frank C. Herringer, Administrator of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration, David L. Yunich, Chairman of New York's Metropolitan Transportation Authority, and other city and federal officials.

The three buses were developed through the U.S. Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) research and development program. TRANSBUS represents competing designs of a vehicle to open a new era in bus transportation.

On introducing TRANSBUS, UMTA Administrator Herringer said, "We have set out to improve passenger comfort and safety, maintain economy of operation and maintenance and above all to make urban transportation accessible to all Americans, especially the elderly and handicapped. TRANSBUS designs have accomplished these goals."

Herringer added, "The low floors, wider doors, improved lighting and other features are amenable to the needs of commuters across the nation. The special designs for boarding persons confined to wheelchairs on TRANSBUS is a big first step toward improved mobility. I am most pleased that the people of New York can be among the first in the nation to view and ride these new buses."

Administrator Herringer pointed out that the recently announced Federal policy for introducing TRANSBUS into service includes the development of a single performance specification, assuring that the many desired characteristics of TRANSBUS will be incorporated into production models.

Mayor Beame said, "I heartily welcome the TRANSBUS project to New York because it is tangible evidence that the Federal government is doing some serious thinking about the cities and is providing funds for interesting approaches in urban transportation." The Mayor added, "It's imaginative equipment like the TRANSBUS that could play an important part in assisting us in solving our complex transit problems in New York."

Noting that the MTA is conducting the TRANSBUS demonstration in New York, Yunch commented, "I am very pleased that the TRANSBUS is being tested in New York under actual driving conditions. These vehicles will be thoroughly people-tested because on every run, operators, passengers, and even pedestrians will be quizzed about their reactions.

"I hope that the bus which evolves from these three prototypes is the answer we have been looking for: a bus so attractive to ride that more people will ride it; a bus that finally gives the handicapped and the elderly the mobility they lack with today's buses."

The buses will operate out of three separate depots, at different times, in different sections of the city. Commuters riding the Staten Island Express Route (R13X) and Riverside Drive (Route M-5) may have an opportunity to ride on one of the TRANSBUS prototypes. In addition, a showcase and controlled route demonstration is planned for Alexander's Shopping Center in Queens, the Staten Island Mall, and Grants Shopping Plaza on Staten Island.

An extra day is being devoted to a demonstration of the features of the bus designed especially for improving the mobility of elderly and handicapped persons.

For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043 or Mr. William Hyland, New York MTA, (212) 498-1130.

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