



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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UMTA 75-07
Phone: (202) 426-4043

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) today announced three contracts totaling \$1.5 million for the preliminary design of a high-performance personal rapid transit (PRT) system.

The contracts are being awarded to:

- . The Boeing-Vertol Company of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, \$500,000
- . The Transportation Technology Division, Otis Elevator Company of Denver, Colorado, \$500,000.
- . Rohr Industries of Chula Vista, California, \$500,000

The contract recipients are participating in a Federally-sponsored design competition. At the conclusion of the seven-month design competition phase, one system may be selected and considered for fabrication and testing in preparation for possible urban application. The high performance PRT system is part of UMTA's Research and Development program and represents an important new thrust in the Department's efforts to provide improved public transportation for the nation's cities.

Personal rapid transit is envisioned as an important alternative to conventional bus and rail transit systems. The small (12 seat) vehicles, traveling under computer control on an elevated guideway have the potential capability of bypassing surface traffic congestion and of providing fast, comfortable and efficient service.

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The current program deals with the engineering problems of function, reliability and safety that must be addressed before consideration is given to urban installation.

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For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043.

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