



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# NEWS

## URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

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A comprehensive assessment of Light Rail Transit (LRT) has been published by the Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) in a report entitled "Light Rail Transit: A State-of-the-Art Review." The report, prepared for UMTA by the consulting firm of DeLeuw Cather, traces the development of the light rail mode during the last two decades, reviews contemporary planning concepts of light rail and describes LRT guideways, vehicles, operating modes and economics.

Light Rail Transit is a modern version of the electric trolley. The feature that distinguishes light rail transit most sharply from the trolley is the degree of separation from other surface traffic. Light rail vehicles operate primarily on their own exclusive rights of way. However, because much of the track is built at street level, the need for costly tunnelling and elevated guideways is minimized with substantial reduction in overall capital costs.

The report represents the most detailed and authoritative treatment of light rail technology available in the English language. It contains a detailed description of 12 representative light rail systems in Europe and North America and a comparison of LRT with other transit modes. Other chapters of the report deal with rights-of-way and stations, light rail vehicles, track, power and vehicle control systems, light rail transit operations and cost considerations.

The report should be of particular interest to planners, engineers and analysts engaged in planning studies and alternatives analyses at the local level and to planning agencies and transit authorities which contemplate capital intensive improvements in their transportation systems.

A limited number of single copies of the report are available from the Office of Public Affairs, Room 9330, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D. C. 20590. Copies may also be ordered from the National Technical Information Service, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia 22151, or from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402, stock no. 050-014-00010-0, price \$4.30 per copy. A summary report, stock no. 050-014-00009-6, also is available from the Government Printing Office at \$1.30 per copy.

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