



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

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URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION WASHINGTON, D. C. 20590

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UMTA 75-81
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The U.S. Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) has awarded a \$130,000 contract to De Leuw, Cather and Company of Washington, D.C. for a study of Light Rail Transit (LRT) and its potential for American cities.

Light Rail Transit is a modern derivative of the electric trolley. The feature that distinguishes Light Rail Transit most strongly from other modes of public transportation is the flexibility with which it can be adapted to a variety of urban conditions. In the dense central portion of a city and in suburban centers Light Rail Transit can be operated in underground subways. In outlying areas the guideway can be placed at the surface on a private right of way in roadway medians or in reserved lanes. At heavily travelled intersections, grade separation can be achieved through underpasses or viaducts. Because much of the track is at street level, expensive tunneling and overhead structures can be minimized, thus resulting in substantial cost savings and minimum disruption of residential neighborhoods.

The objective of the study is to survey the general state-of-the-art of planning, design, engineering, construction and operation of Light Rail Transit. Particular emphasis will be paid to the economics of Light Rail systems under different assumptions as to guideway location and configuration. The study is designed to provide a foundation of technical information for many cities interested in considering a Light Rail system as a transit option.

The first part of this 13-month study should be completed by December 1975.

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For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043. (UMTA Project No. IT-06-0103).

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