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Urban Mass Transportation Administrator Richard S. Page has announced the award of \$4,450,272 to the Southern California Rapid Transit District for the purchase of 20 double-deck buses. This marks the first time the U.S. Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) has funded a fleet of double-deck buses for regular transit service.

"Because these buses can carry higher passenger loads, they'll be more economical to operate in the long run," Page said, "particularly on high-density and express routes."

The new buses will be used on long-distance commuter and express routes, including the El Monte Busway. The double-deck bus seats 84 passengers, compared to 53 passengers on a regular bus.

UMTA previously had funded a small number of double-deck buses for demonstration purposes in several cities, including Los Angeles. The two German-built double-deck buses used in Los Angeles have been very favorably received by Transit District riders.

The grant award was made to Marvin L. Holen, President of the Southern California Rapid Transit District Board of Directors, in Washington, D.C.

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A local source for additional information is
Mr. Jack R. Gilstrap, General Manager, Southern California
Rapid Transit District, 425 S. Main Street, Los Angeles,
California 90013 (213) 972-6000. (CA-03-0132-01).

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