



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# NEWS

## URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

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UMTA 73-51  
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The Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) today announced a grant of \$300,000 to the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission for the design and testing of a Kinetic Energy Wheel (KEW) as a supplemental energy supply system to power trolley-coaches.

As a concept for storing mechanical energy, the spinning disc or Kinetic Energy Wheel has long been understood. However, its power storage and range limitations have discouraged wide-spread use. But in recent years technological advances in metallurgy from turbine development have made increased storage capacity possible. In addition, quick recharges with domestic AC power can now be used to restore the energy speed of the flywheel in less than 45 seconds. The system to be developed will provide the 6 mile range needed for a trolley-bus to traverse San Francisco's Market Street route without dependence on overhead wires. A quick recharge at the end of the route will store sufficient kinetic energy in the flywheel for the return run.

In making the grant, UMTA Administrator Frank C. Herringer noted that the success of this project could have a significant effect on reestablishing the popularity of the trolley-bus, particularly in those cities where these vehicles are still a vital part of the transit system. The Administrator cited Dayton, Ohio as a city in which the trolley-bus is still the backbone of the inner-city transit system and observed that the environment-conscious citizens there are strongly in favor of this quiet, pollution-free means of public transportation.

Today's UMTA grant is for Phase I of a two-part program and will assist in financing studies and design of a KEW propulsion kit that can be used on any trolley-coach currently in operation. The technical development will be conducted by the Lockheed Missiles and Space Company under a Public Utilities Commission contract. Phase II is scheduled for funding in FY 74 and will cover installation, testing and in-service demonstrations on test vehicles to be supplied by San Francisco's Municipal Railway (MUNI).

The local one-third share will be provided by San Francisco's Municipal Railway (MUNI).

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For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043 or Public Utilities Commission, City and County of San Francisco, 287 City Hall, San Francisco, California 94102. (UMTA Project No. CA-06-0014)

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