



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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Steam-powered transit buses with low-pollution engines will be running in California this year.

Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe announced today that the buses will be operated experimentally in public transit service under a supplementary Federal grant of \$409,448 to the California State Legislature. The grant, made by the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration along with a local contribution of \$204,724, will cover the second phase of the California Steam Bus Project.

Under the project, three different steam engine systems are now being built and installed in three transit buses which will be operated by cooperating public transit companies in Oakland, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

The purpose of the project is to demonstrate in actual passenger transit service that a low-pollution steam-power plant can serve as a suitable engine for a transit bus. The project is expected to prove that the level of air pollution from buses and other large vehicles can be appreciably reduced.

Administrator Carlos C. Villarreal of UMTA said that "the steam bus project is unique in that it is based on a contract between the Federal Government and the California State Legislature. It is an excellent example of cooperation between national and local government in working together to solve a problem of mutual concern," Administrator Villarreal said.

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For further information, contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043, or the California State Legislature, Assembly Rules Committee, Room 3173, State Capitol, Sacramento, California 95814.

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