



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

## URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

# NEWS

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The U. S. Department of Transportation today awarded the fourth and last contract in a program to test advanced methods of electronically locating and tracking transit vehicles operating in urban areas.

The \$263,000 contract was awarded to the Sierra Research Corporation of Buffalo, New York, by the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA). Sierra will carry out tests of a technique known as "trilateration" to determine its effectiveness in urban vehicle tracking.

The trilateration technique locates a vehicle by measuring the time required for a radio signal to travel from the vehicle to each of several receiving stations located around a city. A computer can instantly convert these time measurements into an electronic display on a map locator.

The location tests are part of UMTA's Automatic Vehicle Monitoring (AVM) program designed to help bus and other public service vehicle fleet operators provide better and safer service to their riders and to utilize their vehicles more efficiently.

AVM systems are now in operation in Chicago, Illinois (a joint UMTA-Chicago Transit Authority project), Hamburg, Germany, and London, England. The systems are demonstrating their ability to help keep buses on schedule, keep up with changes in passenger demand levels, and secure quick help when mechanical or other problems occur on buses.

- more -

Previous AVM contracts for testing other techniques of vehicle tracking have been awarded to the Teledyne Systems Company of Northridge, California, the Cubic Corporation of San Diego, California, and the RCA Corporation of Camden, New Jersey.

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For further information, contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043.

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