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**SECRETARY PENA ANNOUNCES
SELECTION OF FOUR PROJECTS
FOR TURNKEY DEMONSTRATION**

Secretary of Transportation Federico Peña today announced four public transit projects which may, if they proceed to implementation, participate in the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) demonstration of an approach to major transit construction called turnkey development.

The projects include a light rail extension in Baltimore, Md.; the Los Angeles South Central Electric Trolley Bus; the El Segundo Del Norte Station on the Los Angeles Green Line; and the Tren Urbano, a new rail system to be constructed in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

These projects are currently in various phases of development and will continue in that process as appropriate.

"We believe these projects can demonstrate the savings of time and money possible through the use of turnkey construction," Peña said. "They may also help us identify the kinds of problems anyone using this approach is likely to face and, we hope, ways to solve them."

The turnkey procurement process for major transit construction projects allows the public agency -- usually a transit authority -- to award a single contract for delivery of a complete, operational product.

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By contrast, the conventional process involves a number of smaller contracts, each of which requires a commitment of the transit agency staff's time and resources.

"What we learn from this demonstration program will also help us define the types of projects for which turnkey procurement is most appropriate," Peña said. "We at DOT believe this approach to major transit construction will often be a more efficient way to invest taxpayers' dollars and to help advance new technologies."

Selection of a project for participation in the turnkey program does not commit the FTA to provide financial assistance. Each project must still seek funding through the normal grant application process.

The FTA is an agency of the Department of Transportation.

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**Federal Transit
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