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Transportation

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**ELEVEN TRANSIT AGENCIES PASS
FIRST TEST FOR TURNKEY TRANSIT
COMPETITION, MROSS SAYS**

Eleven public transit agencies have passed the first test to participate in an innovative program designed to save significant time and money in completing major new transit projects, Roland J. Mross, deputy administrator of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), announced today.

The FTA is asking the agencies to submit a "Formal Request to Participate" in a demonstration of a construction process called "turnkey procurement."

"This demonstration will tell us if significant time and money can be saved by allowing public officials to enter into a single competitive contract," Mross said. "The winning vendor will carry out the project from its earliest stages, through construction, and perhaps even during its initial operation."

By contrast, the conventional procurement process for major transit construction projects requires more of the transit agency's staff time and resources to administer the many individual competitive contracts involved. The result can be higher costs and a longer time to complete the project.

During the next phase of competition, FTA will request additional details from the 11 agencies on such matters as proposed project descriptions, work schedules, cost estimates and financing plans.

"The 11 agencies are from a cross-section of the nation's geographic regions, and are pursuing a variety of transit applications," Mross said.

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FTA will choose at least three agencies to participate in the program, which is a result of the 1991 Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA).

These proposed projects will receive further FTA consideration:

1. A light rail (LRT) project in Austin, Tex.;
2. A transit station and access improvements in El Segundo, Calif.;
3. Extensions of the Baltimore area's LRT system;
4. An extension of the San Francisco Bay Area's heavy rail system from the Colma station to the San Francisco International Airport;
5. A commuter rail project in Houston;
6. A "people mover" extension in Jacksonville, Fla.;
7. A public transitway connection between the South Boston Piers area and downtown Boston;
8. An electric trolley bus system in Los Angeles;
9. Expansion of the Los Angeles Union Station into an intermodal transportation center;
10. A fixed guideway system in San Juan, Puerto Rico; and,
11. An electric trolley bus system in Sacramento, Calif.

The projects now under consideration were selected from a field of 17 submitted for an initial screening by FTA staff following a pre-proposal informational meeting last August. More than 100 members of the transit industry met with FTA officials to discuss the program at the August meeting.

The 11 agencies have until Feb. 26, 1993 to submit a Formal Request to Participate. Questions about the program can be directed to Edward L. Thomas, Chief, Capital Development Division, Federal Transit Administration, 400 Seventh Street S.W., Room 6107, Washington, D.C. 20590, or phone (202) 366-4984.

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