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UMTA 19-85
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UMTA SELECTS TEN PROPOSALS FOR RESEARCH GRANTS

Ten research proposals from various local transportation agencies have been chosen for future funding by the Department of Transportation in two programs stressing new technology and innovative techniques in mass transportation.

The programs are administered by the Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA). UMTA will provide more than \$1 million in federal funds for these projects, accounting for 75 percent of the total cost. Participating local agencies will furnish the remaining 25 percent. The agencies selected will be required to submit a grant application before the end of FY 1985 in order to receive the funds.

UMTA Administrator Ralph L. Stanley commented, "This program is useful because it moves new ideas from the planning stages into actual service. The proposals chosen today are particularly well-suited for funding. Formal grant applications should be submitted by those selected in order to implement the proposals."

Three of the research proposals involve the use of methanol fuel. The Florida Department of Transportation (Tallahassee) will evaluate 20 methanol-powered buses, to provide for the development of an engine modification kit for the use of methanol in transit buses. In Baltimore, the Regional Planning Council will sponsor a program to modify engines now using gasoline, to the use of methanol as a fuel. An UMTA study has identified methanol as a promising alternative fuel to petroleum for transit buses. Methanol is considered a clean fuel in that it reduces oxides of nitrogen, particulates and smoke.

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Programs using methanol are desired to demonstrate technical and operational readiness prior to further introduction of the use of the fuel.

PROPOSALS SELECTED FOR FUNDING

<u>RECIPIENT</u>	<u>FEDERAL SHARE</u>
<u>ARIZONA</u>	
Verde Valley Transit Authority (Jerome) - Two spark-ignition (gasoline-powered) buses will be converted to use methanol fuel and operate in high altitude, cold weather.	\$ 18,000
<u>COLORADO</u>	
Pikes Peak Library District (Colorado Springs) - To implement a brokerage service which includes carpool matching and park and ride service.	175,000
<u>FLORIDA</u>	
Florida Department of Transportation (Tallahassee) - Evaluate 20 methanol-powered buses. This will provide for the continued development of an engine modification kit for the use of methanol in transit buses. Florida DOT has the most U.S. experience with methanol buses.	347,025
<u>HAWAII</u>	
Department of Transportation Services, City and County of Honolulu - Develop a computerized system that facilitates the schedule-making process.	246,559
<u>INDIANA</u>	
Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission (Hammond) - Develop a computerized information system and a crime watch program in conjunction with the Hammond Yellow Checker Cab Company.	75,000
<u>LOUISIANA</u>	
Regional Transit Authority (New Orleans) - Develop and implement a pre-paid monthly pass program including employer subsidization.	75,000

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RECIPIENT

FEDERAL SHARE

MARYLAND

Baltimore Regional Planning Council - 97,875
Project will modify bus engines now using gasoline to the use of methanol as a fuel. In addition, project will provide fuel tanks and training, collect data and disseminate information.

NEW YORK

Central New York Regional Transportation Authority \$ 342,375
(Syracuse) - Accelerated test of two wheelchair lifts to improve lift safety and reliability. The test would simulate the local environmental and operational conditions. Test plan results would be used in developing specifications to introduce improved bus lifts into transit service.

PENNSYLVANIA

Red Rose Transit Authority (Lancaster) - 72,336
Implement an employer subsidy incentive program for a small urban transit system.

TEXAS

Fort Worth Transportation Authority - Develop a formal 109,267
safety training program that includes individual self-paced step-by-step training, group lectures, and equipment training. This will also include examination of mechanics and evaluation of their progress.

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**Urban Mass
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Administration**

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