



U.S. Department of  
Transportation

# News:

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UMTA 12-84  
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## UMTA SEEKS METHANOL/SAFETY RESEARCH PROPOSALS

Proposals to introduce methanol fuel systems in transit buses and new approaches to safety and security in transit systems are being sought by the Department of Transportation.

The solicitation of proposals, contained in a May 4, 1984, Federal Register notice, is being made by the DOT's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA). Proposals should be submitted by June 4, 1984, and those selected will be eligible for 75 percent federal funding.

UMTA Administrator Ralph L. Stanley said, "Methanol applications for existing bus engines are being sought because the fuel is clean burning and could prove less expensive than diesel. We are seeking safety proposals in keeping with Secretary Dole's emphasis on safety."

Safety and security proposals should emphasize protecting riders and property in and around transit systems. Some examples might be: reducing revenue loss in collecting and handling fares; fire detection containment and smoke control; emergency preparedness training and planning; operator training; and, vehicle command, control and signalling systems.

Methanol proposals should provide for utilization of at least three buses and contain discussion of maintenance, training needs and facility requirements. They should also contain a project description, budget, outline of benefits and plans for project continuation after the demonstration period. UMTA's evaluation and selection will consider cost-effectiveness, innovativeness, the likelihood of continuation, the capabilities of the prospective grantee, and the ability to obtain 25 percent local funding.

- more -

Proposals should be sent to the UMTA regional offices. For information, contact: (Methanol) Patrick Sullivan (202) 426-4035, or (Safety) Lloyd Murphy (202) 426-2896.

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