

# U.S. Department of Transportation

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### DOT ANNOUNCES PARTICIPANTS IN NEW BUS EQUIPMENT PROGRAM

Urban Mass Transportation Administrator Arthur E. Teele, Jr., has announced the selection of four transit systems to test and evaluate buses under the Department of Transportation's New Bus Equipment Introduction Program.

Up to ten new 70-passenger articulated buses, vehicles that bend in the middle, and 20 new 20 to 30 passenger smaller transit buses will be purchased for the program.

Transit systems selected to participate in the articulated bus program include:

- o Providence, Rhode Island, Rhode Island Public Transportation Authority
- o El Paso, Texas, City of El Paso Public Transit Administration

Systems selected for the smaller bus program are:

- o Columbus, Ohio, Central Ohio Transit Authority
- o Lansing, Michigan, Michigan Department of Transportation

The Urban Mass Transportation Administration will provide 80 percent of the \$5.0 million total cost of the project while local sources will provide the additional 20 percent.

The New Bus Equipment Introduction Program was initiated to test various innovative bus design features in order to determine their operational benefits and market potential.

UMTA is conducting this program because past Federal regulations have engendered little economic incentive to introduce innovative equipment. Transit operators cannot afford to risk funds on equipment which may not meet their needs.

When completed it is expected that the program will have enabled transit operators to identify those innovative features which have proven useful to them, and encourage transit manufacturers to provide those features.

As a result of this program, the transit bus operating and manufacturing industry will better be able to deal with matters of specifications, standards and procurements.

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of Transportation

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