

The FTA's traveling bus technology exhibit will be on display at the East Portal today and Friday.



Peering into the Future: Technology Showcase Visits MTA

(Aug. 1, 2002) A traveling showcase of state-of-the-art bus technology is on display in front of the East Portal today and Friday. Some of the equipment being shown currently is being tested in the Metro Bus fleet.

Sponsored by the Federal Transportation Administration and hosted by the MTA, the Advanced Public Transportation System traveling exhibit includes infrared cameras useful in avoiding collisions in foul weather, on-board equipment monitoring systems, collision avoidance systems and red light priority control systems.

The display features a simulated bus driver's station with automatic annunciators that call the stops, security cameras, a data terminal for communications with bus controllers and global positioning, and a passenger counter.

Also on exhibit is a computer-aided dispatching system that helps bus controllers monitor on-street operations and can notify controllers of mechanical problems on the buses, even before the operator is aware of them.



Joe Vicente, the MTA's "Smart Bus" project manager, tries out the bus operator simulator in the FTA traveling exhibit. FTA facilitator John Catron explains the systems.



FTA facilitator John Catron describes vehicle on-board equipment monitoring systems to a group of MTA employees.

PHOTOS BY BILL HEARD

"We brought in this exhibit to demonstrate to employees and passengers what the future bus will look like," says Joe Vicente, assistant director, Information and Technology Services.

Some Metro Buses already are being used to demonstrate automatic annunciators and many have security cameras on board. Vincente says other examples of the equipment on display in the FTA's traveling exhibit

will be tested by the MTA in 2003 and will be in common use on Metro Buses within the next few years.

[Back to MTA Report](#)