

Driving Simulator Will Help Train Metro Bus Operators

(May 23, 2003) Some day soon, Metro Bus operator trainees will get their first "over-the-road" experience behind the wheel of a virtual reality simulator with all the challenges of a real-world driving environment.

The MTA Board approved a motion, Thursday, to award a \$441,672 contract to FAAC, Inc., of Ann Arbor, Mich., for a Bus Operator Simulation Training System (BOST). The contract award is subject to resolution of a protest filed by a rival company, Doron Precision Systems of Binghamton, N.Y.

Once installed at MTA's Operations Central Instruction, the driving simulator will provide situation awareness, decision-making and training in vehicle handling for operator trainees.

For experienced operators, it will provide remedial training, accident re-creation or retraining for operators who have been absent from driving for extended periods.

One transit agency reported a 10 percent reduction in collisions following use of a simulator training program, according to an MTA staff report.

View is realistic

According to the staff report, the device can simulate 40-foot and 45-foot buses, as well as a 60-foot articulated bus. From the driver's seat, the trainee's view is almost identical to that from an actual bus.

The driver's area has an entire complement of instruments and gauges, safety items, and typical steering, pedal and gearshift equipment.

Computer-generated software and a digital audio sound system produce sights and sounds designed so that operators react to situations as if they actually were on the road. The simulator creates a virtual world of approximately 50 square miles.

Driving simulation systems currently are in use by New York City Transit, Washington, D.C., Metro, Dallas Area Rapid Transit and by the Rochester, N.Y., and San Mateo, Calif., transit authorities.

[Back to Bulletin Board](#)

Virtual Reality



MB – 2000 bus simulator driving cabins use authentic instrumentation and controls



Houston Metro simulator located at Fallbrook Training Center.



Dallas Area Rapid Transit simulator located at N. Peak Training Center.