



NEWS

February 9, 1995

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MTA RECEIVES \$6.4 MILLION GRANT FROM FTA FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY TRANSIT BUS

Federal Transit Administrator, Gordon Linton, presented today a \$6.4 million check to the MTA, to continue development of the Advanced Technology Transit Bus, a high-tech public transportation vehicle, to be put in use in the next century by at least 19 public transit agencies across the nation.

"We are pleased to offer a third year of funding for this project," said Gordon Linton, FTA Administrator. "The money invested in this project will improve public bus technology and set new standards for the bus industry nationwide."

"This portion of the grant will be used to test engine performance and emissions to assure that they perform as predicted in the models," said Supervisor Michael Antonovich, chairman of the MTA.

The new transit bus combines traditional ground transportation technology with high-tech, defense industry technology. Bus design features include maximum weight of 18,000 pounds, which will make the bus 30% lighter than conventional buses. The ATTB will reduce bus emissions up to 80 percent, with potential for upgrading to zero-emissions.

"It will be light enough to allow more fuel efficiency and clean enough to meet strict clean air requirements," said Franklin White, MTA chief executive officer.

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The bus will be capable of operating on various fuels, including compressed or liquefied natural gas. The ATTB will run on four tires instead of six.

In compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act standards, the ATTB bus is being designed with a low floor to permit easy access for wheelchair passengers.

Northrop Grumman Corporation is leading the team of designers of the ATTB bus, under contract with the MTA. The \$56.6 million project is 80 percent funded by the federal government. The remaining 20 percent is paid by in-kind contributions from the MTA and Northrop Grumman.

The ATTB bus is being designed with input from the Rapid Transit Review Board, consisting of 19 public transit agencies throughout the nation. Cities participating include: the New York City Transit Authority, Chicago Transit Authority, Metro Municipality of Metropolitan Seattle, AC Transit of Oakland, Orange County Transportation Authority, Phoenix Transit Systems and Dallas Area Rapid Transit.

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