



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MTA AWARDED FEDERAL GRANT FOR ATTB BUS

On its way to revolutionizing the manufacturing of buses for the next decade, the MTA today received a federal grant for an additional \$5 million to continue work on the lightweight, low-emission Advanced Technology Transit Bus (ATTB).

The bus is often referred to as the "Stealth Bus" because of its use of lightweight materials used in military aircraft.

"This technical assistance grant is a further statement of support by the Federal Transit Administration and its chairman, Gordon Linton, for this first-of-a-kind project, which will significantly reduce pollutants through the use of alternative fuels and hybrid electric technology," said Joe Drew, interim MTA CEO. "Our goal is for this new bus to produce zero emissions."

The ATTB program was initiated in 1992 with the objective of developing a transit bus using proven advanced technologies developed in the aerospace industries. In December, 1993, a predecessor agency of the MTA awarded a \$3.8 million contract to Northrop Corporation, a Los Angeles-based aerospace firm, to design a bus which will be significantly lighter in weight than conventional transit buses, have a low floor for improved accessibility, and provide longer service life at a lower operating costs.

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Currently, Northrop engineers continue in the prototype design and fabrication stage of the project. Engineers, operating on an accelerated manufacturing timetable, hope to have a prototype completed by October, 1996.

"The MTA expects the ATTB to become the new standard transit bus for the 21st century," said Drew. "Elements of the ATTB also could have application to rail vehicle design and construction."

The development of a lightweight, low emissions passenger-friendly bus is expected to promote the use of mass transit and expand the market for additional transit buses.

The MTA leads the nation in research, development and testing of transit vehicles powered by alternative engines.

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