

# TRANSPORT INNOVATOR

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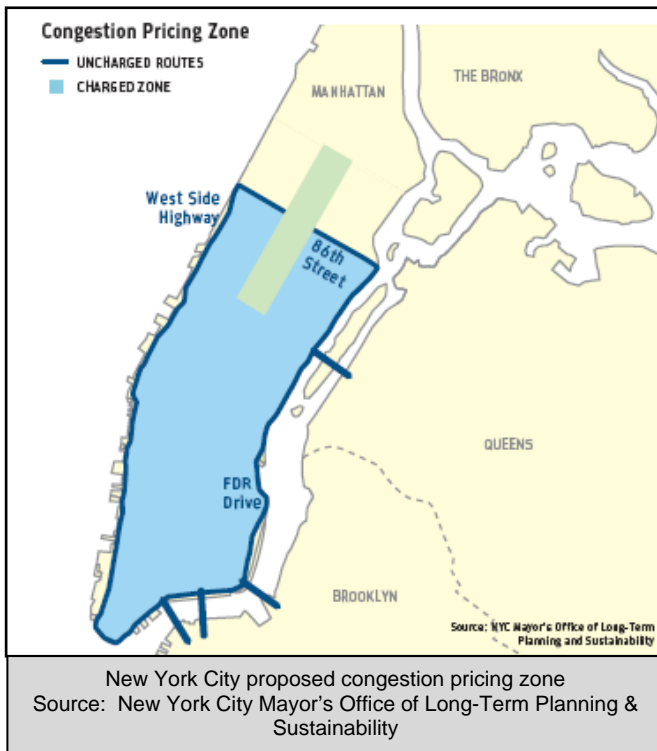
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## **Spotlight: Congestion Pricing Plan Stirs Controversy in New York**

London's pioneering congestion cordon charge is widely viewed as a success. Within the cordon zone, congestion has been cut by an average of 30%, vehicle speeds have increased on average by 25%, and emissions of PM, NOx, and carbon dioxide have declined. Stockholm, Singapore, and Oslo also have successful congestion pricing programs.



Now, Mayor Michael Bloomberg wants New York to be the first US city with a cordon charge. Under his plan, cars and trucks would be charged \$8 and \$21 respectively to enter or exit Manhattan below 86<sup>th</sup> Street during work hours. Cars within the zone would pay half price. The charge would apply to all vehicles, except emergency services, taxis, for-hire cars, and vehicles with handicapped plates.

The cordon charge is just one part of the mayor's 25-year environmental vision for the city, *PlaNYC*. The *PlaNYC* report also calls for major transit improvements, including five bus rapid transit lines and

improved rail service.

Mayor Bloomberg's cordon charge proposal is generating significant debate. Proponents argue that studies show congestion costs New York \$13 billion annually and results in increased pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, as well as significant health impacts. The *PlaNYC* report predicts that a cordon charge would result in 94,000 commuters shifting from driving to mass transit, decreasing traffic within the zone by 6.3% and increasing vehicle speeds by 7.2%.

Opponents have expressed concern that the cordon charge could be implemented without the promised transit improvements. They also argue that the fee will disproportionately impact the poor and increase traffic and emissions outside of the zone.

In August, Mayor Bloomberg scored a major victory by securing a \$354 million U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) award to support his congestion reduction program. The majority of the grant – about \$325

million – will fund bus and bus facility improvements and the planned five-corridor BRT network. The grant also provides \$10.4 million to implement congestion pricing. However, the award is contingent on the New York state legislature and the New York City Council approving a congestion pricing scheme that, if not identical to the mayor's, meets the same performance goals. Many state and city legislators have expressed opposition to the cordon charge. In July, after negotiations with the mayor's office, the legislature created a commission to study congestion mitigation strategies, including the mayor's proposal. The commission must make recommendations in early 2008 for a vote by the state legislature in March.

Mayor Bloomberg's proposal will likely be watched closely by other cities, as it could become a test case for congestion charging in the US. Done well, it has the potential to be a model for improving congestion and reducing emissions while promoting greater public transportation use. However, to ensure the plan's success, the mayor will likely need to address concerns over equity and the timing of public transit improvements.

PlaNYC 2030, available at [http://www.nyc.gov/html/planyc2030/downloads/pdf/report\\_transportation.pdf](http://www.nyc.gov/html/planyc2030/downloads/pdf/report_transportation.pdf)

Other sources:

<http://www.gothamgazette.com/article/fea/20070806/202/2253>

<http://www.environmentaldefense.org/article.cfm?ContentID=6288>

[http://www.ny1.com/ny1/content/index.jsp?&aid=72022&search\\_result=1&stid=3](http://www.ny1.com/ny1/content/index.jsp?&aid=72022&search_result=1&stid=3)

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/08/13/AR2007081301197.html>

<http://www.fightgridlocknow.gov/docs/upaoverview.htm>

<http://cityroom.blogs.nytimes.com/2007/08/14/us-will-give-new-york-354-million-for-congestion-pricing/?hp>

<http://www.streetsblog.org/2007/08/14/details-of-the-us-dots-3545-million-grant-to-nyc/>

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## *BRT and Innovative Bus*

### **Minneapolis, Minnesota: Traffic improvement funding expedited**

The U.S. Department of Transportation has awarded a \$133.3 million Urban Partnership Award grant for traffic improvements, including BRT, in Minneapolis' I-35W corridor. Following the I-35W bridge collapse, Senators Norm Coleman and Amy Klobuchar requested that the grant process be expedited to alleviate worsened traffic congestion in the I-35W corridor. The funding will support development of bus rapid transit service into downtown Minneapolis; buses and park and ride facilities; conversion of an I-35 HOV lane to an 11.5-mile HOT lane; and transit improvements on Highway 77.

Source: <http://www.chanvillager.com/node/1561>

## Hanoi, Vietnam: World Bank grants \$155 million loan for BRT



Hanoi traffic jam  
Source:  
<http://english.vietnamnet.vn/>

The World Bank has approved a US\$155.21 million loan for the Hanoi Urban Transport Development Project to support implementation of a bus rapid transit system, acquisition of 130 vehicles, and creation of a modern bus management system. The BRT project will include 37 km of segregated bus lanes and 9 km of bus priority. The project, which is estimated to cost US\$304 million, has also been awarded US\$9.80 million grant from the World Bank's Global Environment Facility, and will require US\$139.68 million in matching funds from the Vietnamese government.

Source: <http://go.worldbank.org/13CYUNSLX0>

## Adelaide, Australia: O-Bahn's aging buses need replacement

The South Australia government has approved AUD\$122 million to replace the O-Bahn guided busway's aging fleet of 54 vehicles, which range from 21-23 years old. By law, buses must not exceed 25 years of age. The new buses will be phased in between July 2008 and June 2013.

The fleet turnover will also necessitate service changes. The articulated buses used on the O-Bahn are no longer in production, and current articulated models are not designed for O-Bahn's high-speed operation. As a result, the current buses will be replaced with an expanded fleet of standard, non-articulated buses, to maintain the current system's seating capacity.

The O-Bahn opened in 1986 and is the world's longest and fastest guided busway, capable of moving 18,000 passengers per hour in each direction. The system serves more than 7 million passengers each year.



Adelaide O-Bahn  
Source:  
[www.adelaidemetro.com.au/guides/bestplaces/eastern.html](http://www.adelaidemetro.com.au/guides/bestplaces/eastern.html)

Source: <http://www.news.com.au/adelaidenow/story/0,22606,21980322-2682,00.html>

## Mysore, India: Electric trolleys canceled, BRT approved

The Karnataka state government plans to develop an Rs615 billion (USD\$153 million), 74-km bus rapid transit system in the city of Mysore. The BRT plan replaces an earlier project, deemed too expensive, to implement electric trolley buses. BRT planning will begin in 2007, and the project will be completed in about four years.

Source: <http://www.hindu.com/2007/06/28/stories/2007062856770200.htm>

### **Brisbane, Australia: Brisbane moves forward on two more busways**

Construction on the first section of Brisbane's new Eastern Busway began ahead of schedule in July. The Queensland state government moved up the date to coincide with a nearby construction project, reducing disruptions and saving construction costs. In May, the government also approved the final design for the proposed Northern Busway, and is seeking a private partner to deliver the project.



South East Busway station  
Photo source: BTI

The first service in Brisbane's planned five busway network, the 16.5-km South East Busway, opened in 2000 and 2001. This two-way, segregated roadway offers fast and frequent service from the center of Brisbane through the southeast suburbs and has won many awards for design, construction and service delivery. The two other planned busways are the Inner Northern Busway, the first stage of which opened in 2004, and the

Boggo Road busway, currently under construction.

Sources: <http://abc.net.au/news/stories/2007/07/10/1974383.htm?section=business>  
[http://www.translink.com.au/qt/translin.nsf/index/busway\\_main](http://www.translink.com.au/qt/translin.nsf/index/busway_main)

### **Tshwane, South Africa: BRT details announced**

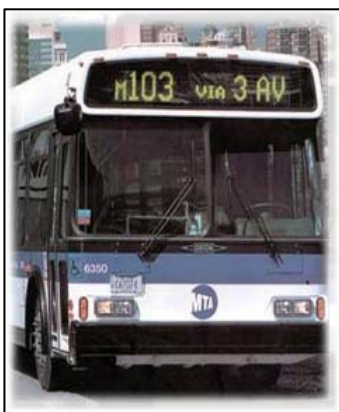
The South African city of Tshwane has unveiled the plans for its new bus rapid transit system. The BRT will be built in four phases, gradually replacing the current public transport system, and will be comprised of 472-km of busways and 113-km of mixed traffic lanes when fully completed. The plans call for median busways and stations, articulated buses, platform level boarding and pre-boarding fare collection. The bus network will include feeder routes that transport passengers to the main trunk lines. Current public transport operators, particularly the minibus-taxis, will be urged to become BRT system operators.

Phase One construction will begin in late 2008 with completion scheduled for November 2009. The BRT system is intended to serve as the backbone of the city's transport system and contribute to more efficient development of the city, as well as provide transport to Soccer World Cup 2010 events. Tshwane is one of several host cities planning BRT service for the 2010 World Cup.

Source: [http://www.iol.co.za/general/news/newsprint.php?art\\_id=vn20070711025422204C325062&sf=](http://www.iol.co.za/general/news/newsprint.php?art_id=vn20070711025422204C325062&sf=)

### **New York City: Trespassers slow new bus lane**

A bus lane implemented in July along lower Broadway in New York City experienced significant congestion due to lane trespassers, leading police to issue 172 summonses on the first day of operation.



NYC MTA bus  
Photo source:  
<http://mta.info/nvct/bus>

The lane is part of New York City DOT's Lower Broadway Transit Priority Plan designed to mitigate the impacts of construction of the nearby Fulton Street Transit Center. The DOT also built four "bus bulbs" along Broadway to allow buses to load and unload passengers without pulling out of traffic, reducing the buses' dwell time.

Priority bus lanes are already in place on other city roads, with the right curb lane designated for goods deliveries, taxi service and metered parking, and the next lane dedicated for buses and right-turning vehicles. Typically about 24 citations are issued daily

for bus lane violations.

Sources: [http://www.nydailynews.com/news/2007/07/03/2007-07-03\\_some\\_call\\_it\\_lanebrained.html](http://www.nydailynews.com/news/2007/07/03/2007-07-03_some_call_it_lanebrained.html)  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/04/27/nyregion/27bus.html?ex=1335326400&en=37718382d548ff3f&ei=5090&partner=rssuserland&emc=rss>

### **Johnson County, Kansas: Study recommends BRT**

Transportation planners in Johnson County, Kansas are proposing express bus service on the I-35 corridor outside Kansas City, Missouri. The service would operate on the highway shoulder for part of the route. Consultants studying transport alternatives for Johnson County found that the express bus service was the best option over commuter rail and light rail, noting that commuter rail could cost from \$130 to \$288 million for 800 - 1,000 passengers a day, while BRT would cost \$46 to \$68 million and would attract four times as many passengers. Officials will pursue federal funding of \$12 million for new buses, stations and technologies. Planners expect to the project to be completed in 5 - 10 years.

Source: <http://www.topix.net/content/kri/2007/07/transit-on-i-35-share-your-thoughts-tomorrow>  
<http://www.topix.net/content/kri/2007/07/with-express-buses-i-35-is-expected-to-shoulder-more-of-the-traffic-burden>

## Vancouver, Canada: Dedicated curb lanes have not reduced bus travel times

A recent analysis of Vancouver's 99 B-Line peak hour dedicated bus lanes found that they have had little or no effect on bus travel times. According to the report, implementation of the bus-only curb lanes increased the likelihood of delays caused by right-turning vehicles in the bus lane. The report noted that two complementary time-saving elements that had been planned as part of the corridor initiative -- transit signal priority and an all-door loading system -- have not been implemented. The report also noted that the bus drivers liked the system, and that bus lanes can "raise the profile" of the transit service.



Vancouver 99-B Line Bus  
Source: [www.answer.com](http://www.answer.com)

Download report: <http://www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/ctyclerk/cclerk/20070612/tt20070612.htm>

## Jakarta, Indonesia: Forum speakers issue warnings on busway problems

Speakers at a Pelangi Indonesia Foundation conference warned that significant improvements are required on Jakarta's BRT systems. Among other things, speakers noted:



Transjakarta buses operate primarily in reserved lanes, but on some corridors must leave the busway to operate in mixed traffic.

Photo source:  
[www.suarapembaruan.com/News/2007/01/29/Utama/29busway.gif](http://www.suarapembaruan.com/News/2007/01/29/Utama/29busway.gif)

- a lack of quality management, neglected in the rush to accelerate development of the busway;
- no requirement for performance audits when bus companies join the operating consortium;
- not enough buses to meet passenger demand;
- no integration of the busway system with feeder buses, minivans or the railway system; and
- illegal access of motorists to the bus lanes.

According to Pelangi researcher Andi Rahmah, "the BRT system will fall apart if immediate action is not taken to solve these problems."

Source: <http://www.thejakartapost.com/yesterdaydetail.asp?fileid=20070706.C02>

## Cleveland, Ohio: Bus riders to “practice” using BRT median busway



Conceptual drawing of Euclid BRT bus lane  
Source: [www.gobrt.org](http://www.gobrt.org)

In late 2007, the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (RTA) will begin operating regular service buses from three current bus routes on its newly-constructed Euclid Corridor BRT lanes. The agency's goal is to teach residents how to use median bus stops before the full BRT service opens in late 2008. RTA will also launch a public relations campaign explaining how the BRT will operate and highlighting its benefits.

RTA has completed two-thirds of the construction for the \$197 million Euclid Corridor Project. In addition to the BRT, the project includes a major re-build along the corridor, with new sidewalks, streetlights, trees and roadway repavement. The construction has created problems for some businesses along the route, and, in response, the city is working to secure low-interest loans to help pay businesses' rent and payroll during construction.

Sources:

<http://www.cleveland.com/news/plaindealer/index.ssf?/base/cuyahoga/118690916566450.xml&coll=2> and  
<http://www.cleveland.com/news/plaindealer/index.ssf?/base/cuyahoga/118690944766450.xml&coll=2>  
<http://www.pal-item.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070812/UPDATES/70812012>

## Las Vegas: Groundbreaking for new rapid bus line

The Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada has broken ground on its new bus rapid transit project, the Downtown Connector. The \$75 million project will connect downtown Las Vegas to the monorail via an eight-mile transit line. The service and vehicles will be modeled after the Las Vegas MAX, the city's first BRT service which opened in 2004. The new service, scheduled to open in 2010, is the first of a planned network of up to eight lines.

Source:

[http://www.lvbusinesspress.com/articles/2007/08/03/news/iq\\_15761713.txt](http://www.lvbusinesspress.com/articles/2007/08/03/news/iq_15761713.txt)



Downtown Connector conceptual drawing  
Source: [www.rtcsonthernnevada.com](http://www.rtcsonthernnevada.com)

## Kaohsiung, Taiwan: City Council members support BRT over rail

A majority of city council members in Kaohsiung, Taiwan have indicated that they prefer a bus rapid transit system over the city's planned light rail project. The Kaohsiung city government is planning a 19.6-km circular light rail system (US\$345.83 million) which was approved by the national government in 2004.

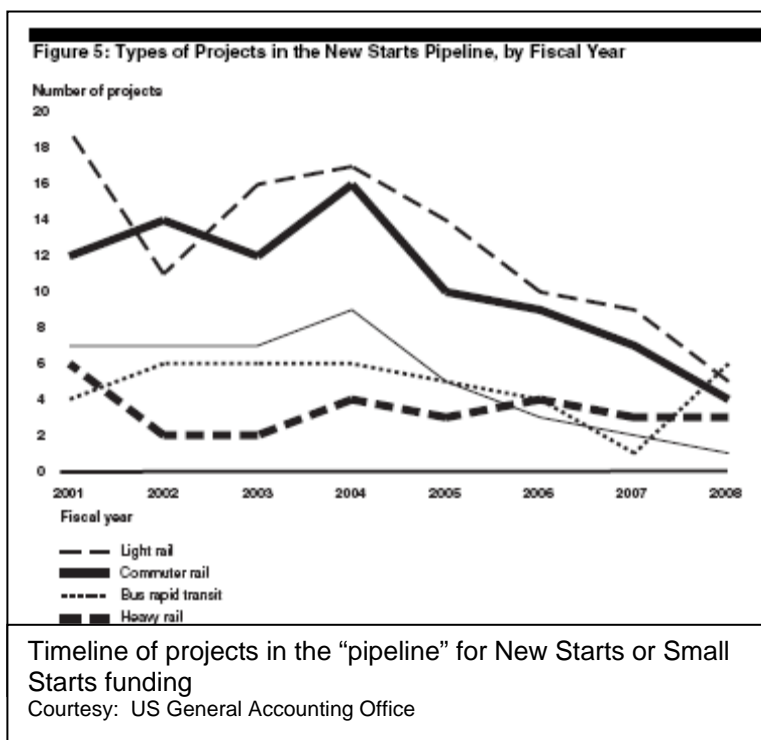
The City Council Speaker noted that light rail is no longer the primary mode considered by cities as a transportation centerpiece, and that light rail would conflict with Kaohsiung's goal of moving all electric wires and cables underground. The city's Mass Transit director acknowledges the benefits of BRT, but believes there is no reason to cancel the approved light rail project and that the light rail could coexist successfully with a BRT system.

Source: <http://www.taipeitimes.com/News/taiwan/archives/2007/08/04/2003372627>

## Transportation Policy

### US: GAO finds high demand for BRT funding

A July US General Accounting Office (GAO) report on the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) New Starts program found that bus rapid transit projects in the funding pipeline are now more common than commuter, heavy or light rail projects. (Projects "in the pipeline" are those that have entered



into preliminary engineering, final design, or project development in order to compete for FTA funding.) However, the report found that the BRTs account for just 12 percent of the total cost of all projects in the pipeline, compared to 36 percent for commuter rail, 30 percent for heavy rail, and 22 percent for light rail.

The GAO also surveyed 168 transit project sponsors about their experience to date with the New Starts program

and plans to apply for the program in the future. Sponsors indicated they planned to seek New Starts, Small Starts or Very Small Starts funding for 101

of 141 planned projects. Out of the 101, 44 would be classified as Small or Very Small Starts, the new category for inexpensive, cost-effective projects such as bus rapid transit.

According to the GAO, the project sponsors expressed appreciation for the Small Starts program, but indicated that the application process is still "time-consuming, costly and duplicative." The full report is available at: <http://www.gao.gov/docsearch/abstract.php?rptno=GAO-07-917>.

### **California: Report outlines potential Low Carbon Fuel Standard path**

The University of California released the second of a two-part study on how California can reduce the carbon intensity of motor vehicle fuels by 10 percent by 2020. The first part of the study identified six scenarios that could achieve the goal and concluded that the goal was ambitious but attainable. The second part of the report identifies specific policy issues that must be addressed to meet the goal. California Governor Schwarzenegger established the low carbon fuel standard by executive order in January 2007.

The report notes that significant technological innovations are necessary and that, as a result, reductions in carbon intensity should be modest in the short term and steeper as new technologies and increased investments are realized. The report makes 22 specific recommendations on a wide range of issues, including the scope of the standards, the baseline and targets, regulations that will be required, and research needs. Both parts of the report are available at: [www.energy.ca.gov/low\\_carbon\\_fuel\\_standard/#uc](http://www.energy.ca.gov/low_carbon_fuel_standard/#uc).

### **US: Report seeks to reduce pedestrian and cyclist fatalities**

Pedestrians and cyclists comprise roughly 13 percent of all traffic fatalities in the United States, largely as a result of collisions with motor vehicles. The US Federal Highway Administration recently released a report on pedestrian and bicycle intersection safety indices. The report provides a tool enabling communities to identify high priority pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements. The full report is available at: <http://www.tfhr.gov/safety/pedbike/pubs/06125/06125.pdf>.

### **Beijing: City to test auto travel restrictions**

In August, Beijing will experiment with a license plate-based driving restriction on private car travel. The private car ban will remove about 1.3 million cars from the road per day. Taxis, buses and emergency vehicles will be allowed to operate as usual. City officials will test the effect of the ban on the city's air quality. Chinese officials are implementing a range of transportation measures in advance of the 2008 Olympics, to address traffic congestion and air quality concerns.

Source: <http://green.yahoo.com/index.php?q=node/1261>

## Alternative Fuels

### **British Columbia: BC Transit awards contract for 20 fuel cell buses**

BC Transit awarded a \$46.4 million contract to build 20 fuel cell buses to a team lead by Canadian bus manufacturer New Flyer Industries. This is the largest single fleet of fuel cell buses ever ordered. The buses will use a fuel cell drive with nickel metal hydride batteries, and will have a 500 km range and a top speed of 90 km per hour. Ballard Power Systems will provide the fuel cells, and ISE Corporation will be responsible for the hybrid drive system. The buses are scheduled to be delivered by late 2009, in time to serve the 2010 Winter Olympics in Whistler, British Columbia, after which they will enter revenue service. The project is being supported by the federal and provincial governments, as well as BC Transit.

Sources: [http://www.isecorp.com/ise\\_news/ise\\_press\\_releases/aug-3-2007-bctransit-fuelcell.php](http://www.isecorp.com/ise_news/ise_press_releases/aug-3-2007-bctransit-fuelcell.php)  
<http://www.canada.com/vancouver/news/story.html?id=15201bde-d6a9-415d-b6e7-eb95f98a9a14&k=73691>

### **Belgium: Fuel cell buses to operate in two cities**

Belgian bus operator De Lijn will place a hybrid fuel cell bus on two of its routes in and around Antwerp, starting in mid-August. Belgian bus company Van Hool built the bus, which uses UTC Power's fuel cells supplemented with a battery pack. It has a minimum range of 350 km. The project is being supported in part by the Flemish Government.

Sources: <http://www.gasworld.com/news.php?a=1883>  
<http://www.fuelcelltoday.com/FuelCellToday/IndustryInformation/IndustryInformationExternal/NewsDisplayArticle/0,1602,9524,00.html>

### **Virginia, US: Transit agency to purchase hybrid buses**

Virginia transit agency Hampton Roads Transit plans to purchase up to 40 29-ft hybrid buses, at a cost of about \$500,000 apiece. The buses will replace an aging fleet of trolley buses that operate in Virginia Beach and an electric shuttle bus service in Norfolk. The two bus services are being combined to create a regional shuttle bus system. The hybrids are expected to arrive next year.

Source: <http://content.hamptonroads.com/story.cfm?story=129236&ran=104183&tref=rss>

### **US: Report finds hybrid buses' lifecycle emissions lower, costs higher**

The Federal Transit Administration released results of a life cycle cost and emissions analysis of four current clean bus technologies. The study estimated the 12-year life cycle costs of a 100 bus fleet using either hybrid-

diesel, CNG, ultra low sulfur diesel or B20 biodiesel. The analysis found that hybrids offered lower tailpipe emissions of particulate matter, NMHC (smog-forming emissions), and greenhouse gases than the diesel and CNG buses. The hybrids also had the best fuel economy. However, life cycle costs were higher for hybrids because the fuel savings were not sufficient to offset the higher capital costs and the cost of battery replacement. The complete study can be found at: [http://trb.org/news/blurb\\_detail.asp?id=7949](http://trb.org/news/blurb_detail.asp?id=7949)

### **British Columbia: BC Transit opts for diesel over hybrid buses**

BC Transit has decided to deploy new ultra-low-sulfur diesel (ULSD) buses instead of hybrids after completing revenue service testing of three hybrid buses. The hybrids achieved fuel economy improvements of up to 28% over diesel buses purchased before 2003, but showed only an 8% improvement over new ULSD buses. The agency said the lifetime fuel savings would not offset the hybrids' roughly CN \$300,000 price premium.

Source: <http://www.autobloggreen.com/2007/07/13/bc-transit-sticking-with-clean-diesel-buses-over-hybrids-for-now/>

### **Sochi, Russia: Hydrogen bus to debut**

The Russian city of Sochi was scheduled to receive a hydrogen-powered bus in July 2007. The bus is part of a program by the European Technology and Investment Research Center (ETIRC) to convert Sochi's gas and diesel buses to hydrogen and deploy hydrogen fueling stations throughout the city. The Sochi hydrogen project is intended to provide renewably-powered transport when Sochi hosts the 2014 Winter Olympics.

Sources: <http://www.gasworld.com/news.php?a=1729>  
<http://www.minprom.gov.ru/eng/appearance/46>

## Transit Technology

### **ITS market to reach \$20.7 billion by 2010**

A Global Industry Analysts report predicts that the worldwide market for intelligent transportation systems (ITS) will exceed US\$20.7 billion in 2010. Advanced Traffic Management Systems will account for the largest market share, while the Electronic Toll Collection Systems share is anticipated to grow the fastest. The United States represents the largest market for ITS (43.97% in 2006), although the fastest growing ITS market is in Europe.

Source: <http://www.emediawire.com/releases/2007/7/emw539797.htm>

## **ITS Peer-to-Peer program partnership**

The U.S. Department of Transportation is partnering with the Intelligent Transportation Society of America to expand its Peer-to-Peer (P2P) program that offers short-term, free assistance to public agencies that are planning, evaluating, making decisions or operating an ITS system. Volunteer industry experts can provide assistance on a variety of ITS subjects, such as electronic payment options, transit management systems, travel information services and traffic signal control systems. Assistance is provided in-person or via e-mail consultations, or by recommending technical references and publications. Further information is available at <http://www.itsa.org/peers.html>.

Source: <http://www.emediawire.com/releases/2007/7/emw540113.htm>

## **Miscellaneous**

### **Las Vegas: Fitch ratings downgrades Las Vegas monorail**

Fitch Ratings recently downgraded first tier bonds on the Las Vegas Monorail and issued a Negative Outlook. The downgrade and Negative Outlook were attributed to reductions in fare revenues caused by continued declines in ridership and a recent fare reduction. Fitch Ratings noted that "Monorail demand is weaker than expected" but that "the monorail retains some ability to increase ridership" if it is perceived to provide a competitive transportation service. Average daily ridership on the monorail was reported as 23,790 for June 2007.

Source: *Business Wire*

### **Salt Lake City, Utah: Ridership drops on TRAX light rail**

Despite rising gas prices, the Utah Transit Authority (UTA) reports that ridership on the Salt Lake City TRAX light rail during the first five months of 2007 was 17.5 percent lower than the comparable period in 2006. Several explanations have been offered for the decline. A UTA spokesperson suggested that people have become accustomed to higher gas prices and thus are less willing to take public transportation. It also was suggested that a decline in ridership was expected, because many downtown businesses have closed despite the addition of new light rail service, and because a new passenger counting system was not performing properly. Finally, UTA critics argue that previous ridership numbers published by UTA were inflated, and that the 2007 count represents a more realistic view of light rail usage in Salt Lake City.

Source: [http://www.heraldextra.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=230476&Itemid=99999999](http://www.heraldextra.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=230476&Itemid=99999999)

## Paris, France: Free bike program launched

A wide variety of Parisians, ranging from students to businessmen to actor Alain Delon, are taking advantage of a free bicycle scheme launched by city officials in July to reduce traffic congestion and air pollution. Registered users are granted free use of a bicycle for thirty minutes, with rentals available for longer periods. More than half a million people have registered to be able to pick up bikes at one of 750 locations in throughout Paris. The program presently offers 10,000 bicycles, but will increase the number to 20,000 bikes at 1,450 pickup sites by the end of the year.

Source: [www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/43392/story.htm](http://www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/43392/story.htm)



## New Zealand: Bus shelters can impact passenger health

A New Zealand transport planner is calling on city councils to construct enclosed bus shelters since wind chill has been found to be responsible for an increase in elderly deaths during the winter. He cited UK research showing that poorly designed shelters and unreliable or infrequent transit are key factors in the increase of winter sickness and mortality. The average number of deaths rises by about 1,000 during winter months in both New Zealand and UK.

Source: [www.nzherald.co.nz/section/1/story.cfm?c\\_id=1&objectid=10450068](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/section/1/story.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=10450068)

## Tacoma, Washington: Busting crime with Beethoven



Pierce Transit and Tacoma police are installing speakers at the Tacoma Mall Transit Center to drive away gang activity. The speakers, which will be mounted on bus shelter roofs or poles to prevent vandalism, will broadcast classical music from a local radio station. A transit agency official reports that studies elsewhere have shown that "classical music deters antisocial behavior at transit centers." If successful, the classical broadcasts will be expanded to other bus stations.

Sources: [http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/local/325896\\_classical01.html](http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/local/325896_classical01.html) and <http://www.thenewtribune.com/news/local/story/121533.html>