

TRANSPORT INNOVATOR

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Editor's Note

Welcome to *Transport Innovator*, a free newsletter dedicated to sharing information about innovative, cost-effective transportation solutions. These solutions are becoming increasingly important, because mobility is a growing concern in the world's cities, and transportation funding is becoming increasingly limited. We hope you enjoy *Transport Innovator* and find it useful. We welcome comments and ideas for future stories. Please feel free to contact us – we look forward to hearing from you. Subscriptions are also available for colleagues. Please have them visit our website, www.gobrt.org, to register.



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Transport News from the United States

Congress appropriates New Starts funds for Cleveland BRT

Congress appropriated \$57.23 million for fiscal year 2005 to the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority's bus rapid transit project. GCRTA is constructing a 9.4-mile BRT line along Euclid Avenue, connecting the two largest employment centers in the region. The plan includes 35 stations and 20 low-floor articulated buses. In total, the plan is expected to cost \$168.4 million of which \$82.2 million will be funded through New Starts.

For more information, click [here](#) (Euclid Transit) or [here](#) (FTA New Starts).

New Jersey governor contemplates turnpike, toll road privatization

New Jersey's acting governor Richard J. Codey is considering selling or leasing the New Jersey Turnpike and two toll roads: the Garden State Parkway and the Atlantic City Expressway. Some experts estimate that the sale of the turnpike could bring in more than \$10 billion. Other cities such as Chicago and cities in Canada, Australia and Europe have privatized toll-road operation and maintenance.

Click [here](#) for more information.

GM and Shell bring fuel cell fleet and refueling station to New York

General Motors and Shell announced a plan to bring hydrogen fuel cell vehicles and a refueling station to the New York metropolitan area. GM is providing 13 fuel cell-powered vehicles. Shell Hydrogen, LLC will install a portable hydrogen-refueling module at an existing Shell station. This will be the first hydrogen service station in New York City.

The New York location represents another stop on the East Coast Corridor, a project similar to California's Hydrogen Highway. Shell Hydrogen has another refueling station in Washington D.C. and is planning to link Washington and New York with a station located between the two cities.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Boston enlists Neoplan for new bus design

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority commissioned Neoplan Corp. of Lamar, Colo. to design and build a new type of bus. Neoplan's Dual Mode Articulated bus (DMA) works with Boston's new subway tunnel system. DMA buses can use overhead electric power while underground and traditional diesel power while on surface streets.

The MBTA placed an order for 32 buses from Neoplan that will be put into service later this year.

Minnesota considers implementing BRT elements

The Minnesota Department of Transportation released a report recommending implementation of a bus rapid transit system along the Interstate-35W corridor. The line would run 20 miles from Minneapolis to Lakeville with buses sharing high-occupancy vehicle lanes. The estimated cost of implementing this program is \$35 million.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Florida bus proposal incorporates on-demand bus service

Altamonte Springs, Florida has proposed a computerized bus system that would allow riders to "order" a bus on demand from a personal computer or at designated kiosks. The computer-dispatched bus would arrive at the pickup point within 12 minutes and take passengers to the stop closest to their destination. The proposal also incorporates signal priority and designated turn lanes.

Officials hope this \$17 million project will begin service in 2009. The city has received \$5.5 million in funding from state and federal sources.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Recent news on high occupancy toll lanes

In California, high occupancy toll lanes have been approved for experimental use in Santa Clara County during a four-year period. The Valley Transportation Authority will recommend the 85, 87 and 101 highways for the experimental HOT lane projects. HOT lanes currently are used in Orange and San Diego Counties.

In the Washington DC area, proposals to add HOT lanes to I-95 and I-395 were approved for further consideration by Virginia's Commonwealth Transportation Board. Moreover, a HOT lane/bus rapid transit alternative has been proposed in lieu of a 23-mile extension of the Metrorail system. That extension would build Metrorail through Fairfax County and into Loudoun County at a cost of \$4.2 billion. According to the Final Environmental Impact Statement, the rail extension would not improve congestion in the corridor and would cause significant crowding problems on the existing Metrorail system.

Click [here](#) for more information on Santa Clara County HOT lanes and [here](#) for more information on Washington area HOT lanes.

Manhattan business group favors congestion pricing

Congestion pricing is supported in Manhattan by the Partnership for New York City, a group of 200 corporate executives. This group will recommend a congestion pricing system similar to the system in London which charges vehicles to enter the central city. Such a system would generate revenues for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and allow the MTA to make transportation-related improvements and reduce congestion in the city.

Click [here](#) for more information.

San Francisco considers congestion pricing

The San Francisco Transportation Authority recently proposed a study of congestion pricing for the city's busiest streets. The study would determine the size of the toll zone, the expected revenue and the amount by which congestion would be reduced. Some streets in downtown San Francisco are repeatedly graded "D" or "F" for congestion during peak hours. This is one proposal to ease the authority's budget and also create a greater demand for the area's public transit service, Muni.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Alternative fuel news roundup

California

SunLine Transit in Thousand Palms, California began testing a hydrogen-electric hybrid bus. The 40-foot bus cost \$600,000 and uses a Hybrid Hydrogen Internal Combustion Engine (HHICE). Following a short break-in period in California, the bus will be moved to Manitoba, Canada for cold-weather tests.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Los Angeles International Airport recently received two hybrid-electric buses. Currently, Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA), an association of Los Angeles-area airports, operates 400 alternative-fuel vehicles. This represents 50 percent of its 800-vehicle fleet.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Colorado

The Roaring Fork Transit Authority began using 5% biodiesel in November 2004 in 85 to 90 of its buses. This biodiesel is a blend of traditional diesel and soybean byproduct from Iowa. Next summer, the transit authority will receive four hybrid-electric buses.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Connecticut

CTTransit released the results from an 18-month study of two diesel-electric hybrid buses in Hartford, Connecticut. The results indicate that the buses have increased fuel economy and are more reliable than standard diesel buses in the fleet. The state received the two buses from the New Flyer Bus Co. in June 2003 as part of a 10-city demonstration.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Florida

The State of Florida recently ordered eight hydrogen-fueled shuttle buses from the Ford Motor Company. Florida is the first customer to buy the V-10, Ford E-450 buses which are the first hydrogen vehicles to be commercially available. Florida intends to put the shuttle buses into use in 2006 in central Florida.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Indiana

The Environmental Protection Agency has recently funded an electrified truck stop designed to reduce extended truck idling. As part of its truck stop electrification demonstration grant, the EPA awarded \$125,000 toward the \$835,000 truck stop. IdleAire Technologies Corp. will provide the technology to begin construction this year.

Click [here](#) for more information.

New Mexico

Albuquerque, New Mexico introduced 12 GM-Allison diesel-electric hybrid buses in December 2004 as part of its Rapid Ride program.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Taos, New Mexico is participating in a pilot program with Taos-based Earthship BioDiesel to fuel one of the transportation department's bus lines. Earthship's biodiesel is made in Taos out of waste vegetable oil.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Pennsylvania

The Port Authority of Allegheny County in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania has received a \$6.6 million grant from the Department of Transportation to buy six GM-Allison diesel-electric hybrid buses. The buses are expected to join the fleet in early 2005.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Transport News from Around the World

Toronto in line for hybrid buses

The Toronto Transit Commission is considering a plan to purchase 100 to 150 hybrid buses from Orion Bus Industries, Ltd. The expected \$110 million order would be the largest in North America for hybrid-electric buses.

The federal government of Canada funds one-third of alternative fuel and hybrid vehicles costs. The average cost of a hybrid bus is \$750,000 compared to a standard diesel bus, which costs \$450,000 to \$500,000.

Pending approval, an order placed this spring would bring the hybrid buses into service in 2006.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Rome and Milan ban private vehicles for a day

Rome, Milan and several other Italian cities recently instituted a one-day ban on private vehicle traffic in the central city. The ban was designed to address growing air quality problems in Italian cities.

Milan and Rome have plans to further reduce the number of cars in the central city

including measures such as banning cars depending on even- or odd-numbered license plates. Venice, Turin, Verona, and Florence already have similar restrictions on private vehicle movement.

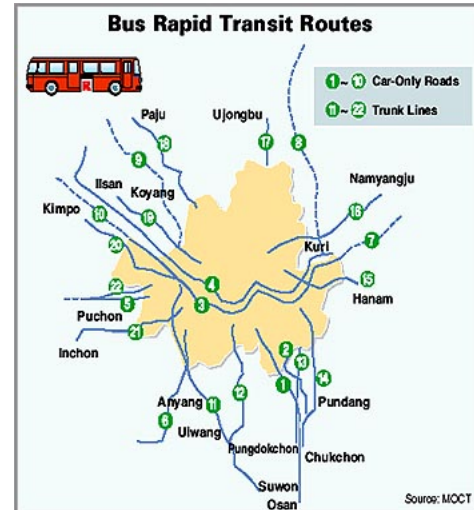
Click [here](#) for more information.

Seoul plans bus improvements for 2012

Seoul, Kyonggi Province and Incheon metropolitan areas in Korea will begin construction in 2006 of a new bus rapid transit system. The BRT system is expected to cover 540 kilometers when complete in 2012. Construction costs will range from 3 to 15 billion won (\$2.9 to \$14.5 million) per kilometer, depending on the capacity of the route.

The new system will incorporate transfer terminals, bus-only right-of-ways, articulated buses and signal priority to improve speed, punctuality and capacity over the existing system.

Click [here](#) for more information.



Taipei tests expanded scope of smart card system

A six-month pilot project is testing whether smart cards used for public transportation fares can also be used to pay for taxis and parking meters. The trial period will include 300 taxis and 20 collection sensors for parking meters.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Jakarta accelerates BRT plan

The city of Jakarta, Indonesia is accelerating its plan to implement bus rapid transit. The original plan slated 15 busway corridors for completion in 2010. Under the newly released plan, the completion date is 2007. To accomplish this, the City Transportation Agency will increase construction from two corridors per year to four. The first busway was completed in 2004. The second corridor will be operational in October 2005.

Click [here](#) for more information.

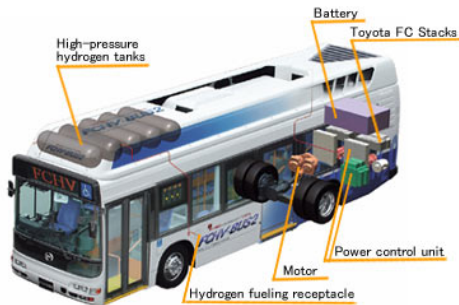
Santiago places Volvo's largest bus order

Three bus operators in Santiago, Chile have placed a joint order for 1,667 Volvo buses. The order included 1,157 articulated buses and 510 regular bus models. This is Volvo's single largest bus order. The deliveries will start in June and continue through February 2006. Santiago is implementing bus rapid transit and has the largest project in Latin America to modernize public transportation.

Click [here](#) for more information (search for Volvo news release dated 1-27-05).

2005 World Expo will feature fuel cell buses

Toyota will provide fuel cell hybrid-electric shuttle buses for the 2005 World Exposition in Aichi, Japan. The buses will transport passengers a distance of 4.4 kilometers between the two sites of the expo, Nagatuke and Seto.



The FCHV-BUS2 model (*pictured left*) has been in limited use on select routes in Tokyo since 2002. It uses hybrid drive and management systems technology similar to the technology used in Toyota's Prius.

Click [here](#) for more information.

London's hydrogen bus test program is successful so far

Transport for London deemed successful a two-year pilot program of hydrogen fuel cell buses. Three hydrogen fuel cell buses were tested on London's RV1 route and traveled 23,000 miles during the last year. This test program will help the Powering Future Vehicles Strategy, a government plan to have 600 low carbon buses in use by 2012.

The London Fuel Cell bus project is part of a plan to test hydrogen-powered buses in ten capital cities throughout Europe.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Edinburgh residents to vote on congestion pricing

Edinburgh, Scotland is holding a referendum February regarding congestion charging. The plan proposed by the Council includes an inner and outer cordon and would begin in 2006. The £2 per day charge would be collected electronically by cameras instead of at tollbooths or barriers. Fares would be paid by the Internet, phone, mail, text message or at payment stations in stores.

Click [here](#) for more information (*click on Transport, then Transport Edinburgh*).

Congestion pricing in London reduces traffic and pollution

Traffic, congestion and pollution have been reduced in central London after two years of a congestion pricing scheme. Bus service is less disrupted and waiting time has been reduced. Businesses within the zone have not been negatively affected and it has generated £170 million in revenue for Transport for London.

Click [here](#) for more information.