

FTA Launches Mobile APTS Showcase

Culminating an initiative begun a year ago, the **US Federal Transit Administration (FTA)** has unveiled its Advanced Public Transportation Systems (APTS) Mobile Showcase Exhibit.

Federal officials say that the vehicle delivers on US Department of Transportation **Secretary Rodney Slater's** promise to advance innovations to transportation practices. The exhibit was presented to the public for the first time by **Acting FTA Administrator Nuria I. Fernandez** at the Ameri-

can Public Transportation Association (APTA) Bus and Paratransit Conference on May 8, in Houston, Texas.

"The APTS Mobile Showcase Exhibit is an excellent vehicle that will help transfer APTS technologies and systems to the transit community," said Acting Administrator Fernandez. "APTS technologies and systems provide transit operators with the technological tools to increase safety and improve quality of service."

The Showcase Exhibit consists of a tractor and 48-foot trailer with expandable sides. Serving as a classroom and briefing facility on wheels, the vehicle demonstrates the benefits of APTS technologies and systems through a bus simulation area, computer workstations, technology wall and interactive kiosk.

APTS technologies and systems on display include automatic vehicle location, electronic fare payment, automatic passenger counters, computer aided dispatch software, traveler



Acting Administrator Fernandez and other FTA officials show off the agency's new Mobile Technology Showcase

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information, collision avoidance and video security. About 30 contributing partners worked on the concept, design, construction, and equipment installation for the project.

In early 1999, FTA issued a solicitation for vendors and system developers to join with the agency in equipping the showcase. Thus, the technologies and systems shown in the showcase reflect the initiatives of industry. FTA officials indicate that they are actively interested in adding additional intelligent vehicle components to the showcase.

The impetus for the showcase was based in part on the success of the

similarly-themed Commercial Vehicle Operations Technology Truck, which has traveled the US for the last three years and been a very popular attraction at truck and

transportation conferences. The CVO truck is sponsored by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration and continues to tour.

The APTS Mobile Showcase Exhibit is expected to promote the benefits of using integrated APTS technologies and systems to increase

the operational efficiency and productivity of conventional public transportation systems. Toward this end, the showcase exhibit provides FTA with a new tool in

its mission to provide education to the transit community. Hands-on technical courses will give individuals the opportunity to gain firsthand knowledge about the technologies and systems on board.

The showcase exhibit will continue to make appearances at various transportation conferences, transit agencies, universities, and other venues across the country.



Intelligent Vehicle technologies provided to the FTA showcase include:

- *Blind-Sight Collision Avoidance System*
- *EchoVision's Rear Obstacle Detection System*
- *Raytheon's Night Vision system (infrared)*

*For more information, contact
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See also:

- <http://www.echovision.net/>
- <http://www.raytheoninfrared.com/drvtint.htm>