

GAO Study Shows Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) can Work in Concert with Existing Public Transportation at a Considerable Savings Over Cost of Installing Light-Rail

The GAO study indicates that different cities with their own sets of needs and limitations will lead to different choices for public transportation. Bus Rapid Transit is very cost effective and provides an immediate relief of traffic congestion.

([PRWEB](#)) September 29, 2001 -- Denver -- Against a backdrop of a fleet of TransTeq's clean hybrid electric EcoMark vehicles, U.S. Representative Tom Tancredo (R-CO) unveiled the results of a General Accounting Office (GAO) study comparing the effectiveness of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and Light Rail. The study incorporated the conclusions and support of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and its Consortium working to develop the BRT service concept in cities throughout the country. "This study shows that BRT can work in concert with existing light-rail lines and allow an immediate reduction in the traffic and congestion that has gripped our communities," Tancredo said. "Most importantly, BRT can accomplish this at a fraction of the cost of light rail."

"The GAO study talks about both the negative stigma attached to buses regarding their noise, pollution and quality of ride and the promise of BRT to change such perceptions with improved vehicles and service," says Paul Szilagyi, TransTeq CEO, "We wholeheartedly agree. We are very fortunate to see the promises of improved passenger service and increased economic vibrancy realized every day in Denver."

Denver-based TransTeq designed and developed their 116-passenger hybrid electric EcoMark vehicle for use on Denver's renowned 16th Street Mall, a transit/pedestrian mall in the heart of downtown Denver. The EcoMark fleet is the largest full-size hybrid electric bus fleet in the world and carries 55,000 passengers daily for the Regional Transportation District's (RTD) system, connecting major light rail lines and bus terminals in downtown Denver. The EcoMark design incorporates key BRT vehicle features cited by the GAO and the FTA necessary to provide an efficient and pleasant passenger experience and overcome negative images of bus travel. Important BRT features include a new high-capacity bus design, superior ease and speed in boarding, a clean propulsion system dramatically reducing pollution, intelligent use of technology and operation on dedicated lanes or guideways. The EcoMark was featured at the FTA's BRT design competition awards ceremony held in Washington, D.C. this past June.

Dale Hill, TransTeq President and active participant with the FTA's BRT Consortium, complimented the GAO saying "This study captured the essence of our FTA led discussions and the general BRT advantages of increased route flexibility, the ability to phase in service rather than wait for a complete system and the lower infrastructure and costs possible with BRT. It clearly indicated the need for new vehicles and designs to provide the quality "rail-like" service BRT strives to provide. I would add that BRT is likely the preferred solution in areas that cannot support the additional electrical demands of a light rail system."

"The GAO study indicates that different cities with their own sets of needs and limitations will lead to different choices for public transportation. What Denver's RTD has done so well is to provide origination-to-destination connectivity with the downtown area. This type of service is essential irrespective of the modality if the use, value and image of public transportation is to improve," says Szilagyi. For additional information visit:

<http://www.transteq.com>



The full report will be available Friday at www.gao.gov the report is titled: Mass Transit Bus Rapid Transit Shows Promise GAO-01-984.

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