

FTA TRANSIT BUS AUTOMATION STRATEGIC PARTNER

access

LRT-VA AUTOMATED VEHICLE SHUTTLE SERVICE

ACCESS SERVICES

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LA CITY DOT, CITY OF CULVER TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT, SANTA MONICA'S BIG BLUE BUS, ROUTE MATCH SOFTWARE, LILEE SYSTEMS, LUCENT/ALCATEL, BAIDU USA, AND MV TRANSPORTATION



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration

PROJECT SUMMARY

Automation Level(s): 3-4

This project seeks to create a purpose-built accessible vehicle and an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant vehicle. The two types of purpose-built vehicles will be deployed along a three-mile corridor to connect an LA Metro light rail station with a Veterans Administration (VA) hospital in Westwood. The project will study automated vehicle technology and how the service can meet the transportation needs of persons with disabilities. Access Services is planning three phases for the project.

1. **Vehicle Build-Up & Tuning Phase:** Vehicle tuning and testing will be conducted at the UC Berkeley PATH test field before public road testing in Los Angeles.
2. **Point-to-Point Circulator Services:** The vehicles will serve a six-mile circulator route connecting a VA healthcare center to a light rail station. Vehicles will only have pick-ups and drop-offs at the medical center and the light rail station.
3. **On-Demand Services:** The circulator route will be expanded as a geo-fenced service area to pilot demand services based on 20-minute wait times. In this phase, the pick-up point can be anywhere within the geo-fenced area, but the drop-off points can only be the medical center or the rail station.

PROJECT GOALS

- Provide mobility freedom
- Improve service quality
- Understand operational impacts
- Prepare for workforce changes
- Reduce operating costs
- Embrace new technologies for people with disabilities
- Overcome driver shortages

VEHICLE INFORMATION

A purpose-built, ADA-designed Dodge ProMaster CNG will be developed for this project. The vehicle will also meet all regulatory requirements, including Buy America, ADA, and the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS). The objective is for the vehicle to be able to operate for nine hours per day at 180 miles per day, with a useful life of 6.5 years.

DATA COLLECTION, MANAGEMENT, & SHARING

The type of data collection is still being determined, but Access Services' current plan is to do a before/after comparison using survey questions.

PROJECT STATUS & SCHEDULE

Due to COVID-19, the project may have to be scaled back as a result of limited local funding. The timeline will also be impacted by COVID-19 and funding availability, and it is currently unclear when the project will be able to start.

BUDGET

Budget subject to change given COVID-19.

FTA Strategic Partnership Funding	Non-Federal Cost Share	Total Amount
\$120,000	\$30,000	\$150,000