

## Facility Operations and Vehicle Technologies



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I would like to provide a brief overview of the facility operations and vehicle technologies track of workshops. These sessions focus primarily on research and development in the hardware elements of the transportation system. The session later this morning examines magnetic levitation, or MAGLEV. This afternoon, Session 7 will focus on air quality and advanced bus technologies for emission control. Both of these are very timely topics that should be of interest to many of you.

The session on Tuesday morning will explore the use of advanced technologies for implementing the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This is another area that is critical to transit agencies around the country. Wednesday morning's session will address low-floor transit vehicles. These are new, low-floor bus and light rail vehicles that should speed loading times for all passengers, reduce vehicle costs, and provide improved handicap access. Thus, they hold the promise of a "win-win" situation.

The final session Wednesday afternoon covers vehicle guidance technologies, including automated people movers, electric trolley buses, and personal rapid transit.

All of these are very timely topics and I think you will find them of interest. One of the key concerns in hardware development today is cost reduction. We cannot focus only on advanced performance in the development of new technologies. Rather, we also need to show capital and operating cost savings. In addition, today's new technology should help to address federal requirements, especially those relating to ADA, emission reductions, and energy savings.