



MEMO / NOTE DE SERVICE

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TO: Transit Commission

DESTINATAIRE : Commission du transport en commun

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8 mai 2018

FILE NUMBER: ACS2018-TSD-TS-0002

**SUBJECT: PRODUCT TESTING ON OC TRANSPO'S CONVENTIONAL BUS FLEET**

**OBJET : ESSAIS DE PRODUITS SUR LES AUTOBUS CONVENTIONNELS D'OC  
TRANSPO**

**PURPOSE**

OC Transpo is undertaking some field trials with its bus fleet. The purpose of this memo is to advise the Transit Commission that our customers may notice new equipment on our fleet. Accordingly, we would like to share with you the program details.

## BACKGROUND

OC Transpo is continuously monitoring industry developments, exploring new products, researching best practices and working with suppliers to ensure that our bus fleet continues to provide a reliable service, while meeting the safety and comfort needs of our customers and our bus operators.

## DISCUSSION

In the coming months, we will be testing equipment and products associated with several mechanical and technical initiatives led by our Transit Fleet and Facilities Maintenance team, in partnership with our Health and Safety Committee:

- Testing is scheduled for various tire products to assess traction, performance, longevity and price per kilometers for future use on OC Transpo's fleet. Some articulated buses from our fleet will be outfitted for testing;
- Use of a blue laminated interior lamp diffuser that will minimize the glare on the bus operator's windshield during evening service and operation;
- A test program is planned for later this year to outfit a small portion of our bus fleet with an operator barrier ("shields") that will restrict customer access to the operator's area. It has been some time since OC Transpo explored the use of barriers on our fleet of buses. Just over 10 years ago, OC Transpo conducted a preliminary review through installing a barrier on a bus, and has since continued monitoring developments in the transit industry relating to barriers. This is now an opportune time to undertake a detailed review of the operational impacts and an assessment of the potential benefits of these devices. We are currently reviewing available options from our existing manufacturers and requirements for installation to assess the effectiveness in enhancing the overall safety of our bus operators and customers. The results of this test program will inform a future staff recommendation to Transit Commission;
- Testing is currently underway to explore products to reduce the road debris that can reduce visibility of the operator's external mirrors while they are operating the bus. Two different products are being assessed: 1) a brush configuration attached to the circumference of the front wheel openings, which will limit the spray and 2) a fixed device commonly referred to a cowl, will be installed on the body side molding; and,
- A test program to monitor the quality and durability of vinyl products as an alternative to paint will be undertaken in 2018. As part of this testing program, for vinyl wraps will be installed on the lower portions of the articulated bus fleet. The intent is to monitor the quality and durability of the vinyl as an alternative to paint. The testing may provide a solution to reduce the downtime of a vehicle due to the existing exterior painting process when cosmetic repairs are required.

## CONCLUSION

The information gathered as part of these product tests, combined with information from other Transit Authorities and additional studies, will serve to inform future equipment purchases and related contracts.

If you have any questions on this matter, please contact Troy Charter, Director, Transit Operations at extension 52160 or myself at extension 52111.

*Original signed by*

*John Manconi*

c.c. Senior Leadership Team  
Transportation Services Departmental Leadership Team  
Director, Public Information and Media  
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