

Versatile Pacific Shipyard's Seabus is an integral part of Vancouver's rapid transit system. (Photo by Gar Lunney)



The GSM Taxi is easy to enter, has more space than a conventional taxi and can accommodate five mobile passengers or three mobile passengers and a wheelchair.



The Orion II bus from Ontario Bus Industries, designed for the disabled, can "kneel" at the curb for easy access.

The *GSM Taxi*, another vehicle used to transport the elderly or disabled, has been specifically designed for large-city driving. Using a heavy-duty truck chassis, it can withstand rugged driving, while still providing passengers with a comfortable, smooth and safe ride. The body of the GSM has been designed with interchangeable modular parts, which reduce maintenance and inventory costs.

Seabus

At rush hour in Vancouver, bridges from the downtown area to the North Shore are jammed with vehicles. As the great spans make the cost of additional bridges or tunnels prohibitive, Canadian marine specialists teamed up with engineers to develop a new approach. The *Seabus* is more than a simple ferry service. It is an integral part of Vancouver's rapid transit system. Terminals and schedules are fully timed and integrated with Vancouver's buses and inter-city trains.

A *Seabus* vehicle can reach speeds up to 13.5 knots and carry 400 passengers on each 12-minute crossing, with a turn-around of 90 seconds at each end. Two motors forward and two aft allow the *Seabus* the capability of turning around in its own length.

The elderly and disabled

In designing and building transportation networks, Canadians have not forgotten the disabled and elderly. Life for them is difficult enough without their having to manoeuvre getting on and off conventional transit vehicles, which is why the *Orion II* was developed. This bus rides on a "bag" of air which not only gives the passengers a comfortable journey, but, by simply letting out some of the air, the bus can "kneel" to within 5 cm of the curb. It can also be equipped with a wheelchair ramp.