

Testing UV-C Lighting Technology to Improve Rural Transit Systems

PROJECT TITLE

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STUDY TIMELINE

March 2021 – December 2022

INVESTIGATORS

Peter Tse, PhD, Dartmouth College,
Peter.Tse@dartmouth.edu

Cody Plante, Dartmouth College
cody.m.plante@dartmouth.edu
email

VTRANS CONTACTS

Daniel Currier, Public Transit Coordinator,
Dan.j.currier@vermont.gov
Ross MacDonald, Public Transit Manger,
Ross.macdoland@vermont.gov

KEYWORDS

Public Transit, Ultraviolet Light, COVID-19

FUNDING

Federal Transit Administration
COVID-19 Research grant

Introduction or Problem Statement

Vermont transit providers are seeking solutions to cost-effectively and efficiently sanitize public transit vehicles to combat the spread of viruses. UV-C lighting shows promise as a measure to kill viruses but is largely unproven in real-world transit operations. This project will test the efficacy of UV-C lighting products to stop the spread of COVID-19 compared to current cleaning protocols. If effective, results will inform statewide procurement of the technology.



Methodology or Action Taken

VTrans work with Dartmouth College and selected Vermont transit providers has completed the on-bus UV-C testing with over 30 buses and 500 riders taking part in the 6 weeks of testing.

Conclusions or Next Steps

The researchers are currently analyzing the survey's results to determine if the UV-C intervention improved the air and health of riders on the buses.

Potential Impacts and VTrans Benefits

Testing UVC Lighting Technology to Improve Rural Transit Systems project will develop and deploy innovative solutions in two major areas: (1) Vehicle, facility, equipment and infrastructure cleaning and disinfection; (2) measures that strengthen public confidence in transit.

