Facts about the AC Transit Small Bus
To obtain a reliable small bus, suitable for efficient operation of a Dial-A-Ride system, AC Transit cut down a regular 35-foot coach seating 45 passengers. A cut was made crossways behind the front wheels, a six-foot long section was removed and the bus fitted back together again. The first bus was designed to seat 16 passengers with an extra amount of seat width and leg room. Another 12 buses similarly “tailored,” seat 18 comfortably.

The bus has the same six cylinder power plant, automatic heating and ventilation and the complete air-ride suspension now furnished in larger buses. Mechanically it is in excellent condition. The bus is one of a series purchased by AC Transit from General Motors Corp. in 1961. It has operated 690,000 miles.

The interior features elegance new to the industry. The floor and the ceiling have been carpeted to reduce interior engine noise level. Acoustical material also has been added to the engine compartment. Mahogany-type melamine paneling has been used on passenger compartment walls.

Fabric covered bucket type seats are 21 inches wide. Lounge type seats across the back are even wider—22 inches each. A parcel rack has been located near the front door.

The standard exterior paint scheme has been modified to give Dial-A-Ride buses an individual appearance.

The bus has a spotlight to pick out house numbers and assist people in moving safely at night between the bus and the front door. Lighting over the bus entrance illuminates the loading and unloading area. A buzzer device gives warning if it is necessary for the bus to back up.

In addition to the conventional horn, a musical tune announces the presence of the bus at arranged stops. Cost of remodeling the prototype was approximately $11,000, although additional buses were cut down similarly and “customized” at an estimated cost of $10,000 each.
**dial-a-ride**

**SPECIFICATIONS**

- LENGTH ... 29 ft., 2 in.
- WIDTH ... 8 ft.
- HEIGHT ... 9 ft., 10 in.
- WEIGHT ... 18,400 lbs.
- CAPACITY ... 16 or 18 seats
- ENGINE ... 6V71 Detroit Diesel, 6 cylinder, 190 hp
- TRANSMISSION ... General Motors, Hydraulic Drive, Model V.H.

**AC TRANSIT**
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