



## LSVs need a test drive

February 28, 2008

**Re:Canada putting up roadblocks**

**to low-speed electric autos**

**Business, Feb. 23**

Low-speed vehicles (LSVs) are required to be electric but are not considered "electric cars" under the Motor Vehicle Safety Act or Motor Vehicle Safety Regulations. Comprehensively safety-certified electric-powered passenger cars and trucks must meet the same safety standards as conventional vehicles that are powered by gasoline, diesel, propane or natural gas. LSVs provide a substantially lower level of safety.

Transport Canada encourages vehicle manufacturers to consider designing and making environmentally friendly electric vehicles that meet all of the strict safety standards currently met by mainstream motor vehicles.

The LSV class was originally created to meet transportation needs in controlled areas. The safety of LSV users in case of a collision is of great concern to Transport Canada. That is why we will purchase sample vehicles from Toronto-based ZENN Motor Co., which manufactures an LSV, to assess their safety performance in collisions that could occur on low-speed city streets.

*Kash Ram, Director General, Road*

*Safety Directorate, Transport Canada, Ottawa*