



PRESS RELEASE

Kitsap Transit wins \$3.9 million federal grant for five electric buses

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BREMERTON, Wash. – Kitsap Transit has won a competitive grant of \$3.92 million from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to replace five conventional diesel buses with battery-electric buses and charging infrastructure, accelerating the greening of the agency's fleet.

The grant from the FTA's Low- or No-Emission Vehicle Program will bring the total number of battery-electric buses in Kitsap Transit's fleet to seven and was supported jointly by U.S. Rep. Derek Kilmer, Sen. Patty Murray and Sen. Maria Cantwell.

"This is great news and supports our efforts to be a cleaner, more efficient transit system," said John Clauson, Executive Director at Kitsap Transit. "We are grateful for the strong support for our grant application from Congressman Kilmer and Senators Murray and Cantwell, who also are championing federal relief for local and state governments battered by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic."

"Our region is continuing to lead the way in reducing carbon emissions and growing green jobs," said U.S. Rep. Derek Kilmer. "Federal investments to make these buses - and our public transportation system in general - more green, more clean, and more affordable is great news for our region, our planet, and our economy. I'll keep at it."

In 2017 Kitsap Transit committed nearly \$1 million of local funding to procure its first battery-electric bus from Proterra. Later that year the FTA awarded Kitsap Transit \$1 million for a battery-electric bus; Kitsap Transit purchased one from Gillig that is scheduled to be delivered this November. The same grant also paid for critical power upgrades and installation of a charger in February this year at Kitsap Transit's North Base in Poulsbo.

Kitsap Transit's Charleston base requires upgrades to electrical service and distribution systems to support the expansion of its battery-electric bus fleet there. Earlier this year, Kitsap Transit received about \$1 million from the Washington State Department of Transportation's Green Transportation Grant Program to accomplish that. The power upgrades will enable Kitsap Transit to convert up to 44 of its 74 buses from diesel to electric in the future.

The grant announced today will cover 80 percent of the \$4.9 million cost of replacing five conventional diesel buses with battery-electric buses at Charleston base by 2022. Kitsap Transit, which is providing a local match of \$980,000, plans on placing an order for the electric buses by the end of this year.

The Charleston base was selected from Kitsap Transit's three bus bases for the five new battery-electric buses because it is located just outside of downtown Bremerton and serves the largest ridership and population center. The Charleston base is certified to the global standard ISO 14001 for environmental management systems.

In addition to electric buses, Kitsap Transit runs the first hybrid-electric ferry to operate on the Puget Sound and has converted the majority of its *ACCESS* diesel buses to propane, which burns cleaner and is significantly less expensive than diesel. Since 2013, Kitsap Transit has decreased its carbon-dioxide footprint by more than 375 metric tons, equivalent to taking 82 cars off the road per year.

About Kitsap Transit

Kitsap Transit has been operating friendly, convenient public transit since 1983. The transit agency for Kitsap County carried more than 3.8 million riders in 2018 across a multi-modal system of routed buses, passenger ferries, paratransit shuttles, vanpools, and worker/driver buses for the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard.

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