



Pittsburgh Regional Transit

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (September 7, 2022) - Pittsburgh Regional Transit today announced its plan to transition to a zero-emission bus fleet by 2045.

QUOTE County Executive Rich Fitzgerald.

Pittsburgh Regional Transit will begin to increase its replacement of diesel buses with zero-emissions buses beginning in 2025, and will only purchase zero-emissions buses after 2032. The agency will spend more than \$1 billion over the next 20 years on the transition. A full report will be presented to PRT's Board later this month.

QUOTE PRT CEO Katharine Kelleman

Transitioning to a zero-emissions bus fleet will greatly improve the region's overall air quality while continuing to provide riders with reliable and efficient service. Although riding public transportation is significantly better for the environment than driving in a personal vehicle – even when it's powered by a diesel-powered engine – PRT projects that transitioning to a zero-emissions fleet will even further reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

QUOTE Health Department Director Dr. Debra Bogen.

Zero-emissions vehicles have grown in popularity in recent years. PRT put its first two battery-electric buses in service in 2020 and followed up with six battery-electric buses in 2021. PRT recently ordered another 15 battery-electric buses that will operate on the future Downtown-Uptown-Oakland BRT. PRT has a fleet of 730 buses.

QUOTE Anna Siefken, ambassador, Clean Energy Education and Empowerment, U.S.

Department of Energy

While PRT plans to deploy battery-electric buses in the initial years of the zero-emission bus transition, the agency will continue to evaluate developments in hydrogen fuel cell vehicles and other technologies. This approach will enable PRT to purchase the newest, smartest technology as advancements occur in this rapidly evolving field, and gives the agency time to install infrastructure – such as charging stations – and train employees efficiently operate and maintain this technology.

QUOTE Joylette Portlock, executive director of Sustainable Pittsburgh.

QUOTE Green Building Alliance Director Jenna Cramer.

The transition to a zero-emissions fleet will require PRT to retrofit each of its four bus garages and maintenance facility with charging equipment, and training its 1,400 bus operators and 800 mechanics on the new technology. Non-revenue vehicles, charging infrastructure, and facility updates and any new facilities PRT builds would also be equipped with infrastructure to support zero-emissions vehicles at an additional cost. PRT currently has two electric charging stations at its East Liberty bus garage along the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. East Busway.

QUOTE Dr. Jay Whitacre, director of the Wilton E. Scott Institute for Energy Innovation at Carnegie Mellon University.

PRT's commitment to shift 100% of its fleet to zero-emissions vehicles by 2045 puts it in line with other transit agencies across the country, including New York's MTA, Chicago Transit Authority, Los Angeles Metro, New Jersey Transit, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Agency in Washington, D.C., San Francisco's MTA, the Detroit Department of Transportation, TriMet in Portland, and the Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Transit Administration, among others.

QUOTE Duquesne Light representative.

Electric buses cost about 60% more than their diesel counterparts, with the average cost of a 40-foot electric bus being approximately \$950,000. Federal funding is expected to be used to make up the difference.