



Pittsburgh Regional Transit

PRT Board Takes First Step Toward Purchasing New Rail Cars

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (July 26, 2024) - Oh, that new rail car smell!

Pittsburgh Regional Transit's Board today took the first step toward purchasing new rail vehicles.

PRT's Board approved a resolution authorizing the agency to submit a letter of interest to the Build America Bureau for the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Investment Act program, a federal loan program that allows transit agencies to borrow up to 49% of the cost for eligible projects.

The average age of a rail car in PRT's existing fleet is 33 years.

"Although our current fleet of rail cars are in good condition for their age, it's clear that modernization is necessary as we prepare for the future," said PRT CEO Katharine Kelleman. "This is a long process, but submitting this letter of interest is the first step that will allow us to move this vision to reality."

PRT estimates the total cost of new rail cars to be about \$750 million, with the remainder of the funds come from bond issuances. PRT also plans to pursue grant opportunities. The new rail procurement process is expected to take approximately 12 years.

Exactly what the new rail cars will look like is still being decided; PRT has formed an internal committee to determine what features and amenities should be included. Special attention is being paid to accessibility, safety, and amenities for riders.

"A new fleet of rail cars will ensure that we can have a future light rail network that is reliable and dependable, ensuring a smoother and more dependable transit experience for decades to come," Kelleman said. "It's a lengthy journey but this is a crucial first step and I'm genuinely excited about the potential it holds for our transit system and the communities we serve."

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