



Press Release

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Foothill Transit announces Electric Bus Demonstration Project

(WEST COVINA, CA) May 4, 2009 – Foothill Transit, the primary public transportation provider for the San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys in Los Angeles County, awarded a \$5.8 million contract to Proterra LLC for the procurement of three (3) battery-powered electric buses and wayside fast charging equipment for their newly launched Electric Bus Demonstration Project.

The buses will be lightweight vehicles with futuristic styling and with a composite construction design, powered by an electric drive that wouldn't depend on an Auxiliary Power Unit (APU) or range extension equipment on board, have a 30-mile minimum range without charging, and will be recharged, in route, in a few minutes.

The in-route docking station for the electric buses can deliver a 95% recharge in less than 10 minutes and will require no intervention or hands-on labor from the bus operator. This fast-charge, in route electric powered bus project is the first of its kind in the nation.

"Recent rapid advancement in battery and vehicle technology have made this bleeding edge project possible," said Peggy Delach, Chair of Foothill Transit's Executive Board. "And the challenges that we face with our environment demand that we expand beyond what's available into what's possible. This is the time and place for possibility. Excited doesn't begin to describe how we feel. This is history."

The project will be funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) and will be deployed in early 2010 along Foothill Transit's Line 291, which travels between La Verne and Pomona. The three buses will be recharged in route at one of two recharging stations that will be set up on either end of the line, and has the potential for 24/7 service since the vehicles do not have to return to the yard for refueling.

The energy storage on board the three buses will be high density Lithium-titanate batteries, capable of the fast-charging Foothill Transit requires to run its service while providing a longer shelf life than their traditional vehicle battery counterparts.

During the project's life, both Foothill Transit and Proterra LLC will be monitoring the technology's ability to handle the demands of a regular, stop-and-go transit route over the two-year trial period. Successful testing of these three buses will provide the opportunity for Foothill Transit to purchase additional buses from Proterra to expand the project.

Answering the international call for efficient, cost-effective and environmentally responsible transit solutions, Colorado-based Proterra has been designing and manufacturing the world's most efficient commercial vehicle technologies since 2004. With hybrid and battery-electric buses that are built from the ground-up in Colorado, Proterra has patented clean transit technology serving the commercial sector with solutions for city transit buses to class 4-8 trucks.

Foothill Transit is in its 20th year of serving the San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys in Los Angeles County. Its 314-bus fleet covers approximately 327 square miles each year, carrying over 15 million passengers with 36 fixed-route bus lines.

Foothill Transit is dedicated to being the region's premier public transit provider committed to safety, courtesy, quality, responsiveness, efficiency, and innovation. To receive a complete travel itinerary of starts, stops, and transfers to your destination, call 1-800-RIDE-INFO or visit one of Foothill Transit's five Transit Stores located in West Covina, Claremont, Pomona, Puente Hills Mall, and El Monte Station.

For the latest news, route maps, job openings, and past press releases, visit www.foothilltransit.org.

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