

BATTERY ELECTRIC BUSES PLUG IN TO THE HIGH DESERT

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Hesperia, Calif: Victor Valley Transit Authority introduces the first public transit Battery Electric Buses (BEBs) to go into regular service in San Bernardino County. According to VVTA, these seven (7) are the first of many zero emission buses planned. VVTA's Board's is committed to switching over to a Zero Emission Bus (ZEB) fleet within next several years as zero emission bus technology evolves said Kevin Kane, VVTA CEO.

These comfortable and quiet 40' Xcelsior buses, manufactured by New Flyer in St. Cloud MN. are fueled with electric power supplied by SCE using state-of-the-art ChargePoint CP-250 chargers

Hesperia Mayor and VVTA Chair, Larry Bird, commented "The VVTA Board is always looking for ways to improve the quality of life here in the High Desert. We are particularly pleased with the positive impact on air quality these buses bring. Zero tailpipe emissions mean cleaner air for everyone"

Passengers can also expect an enhanced experience. These electric buses will feature passenger Wi-Fi to keep riders connected no matter where the bus takes them. Additionally, these buses include a touch pass card and mobile phone fare payment system, GPS, an eight (8) camera safety video surveillance system. Additionally, the New Flyer buses feature a redesigned wheelchair ramp, audio announcements and upgraded signage for VVTA's passengers who require extra assistance.

"Deploying battery electric buses in VVTA's operating environment is a challenge" says VVTA's Operations Director, Simon Herrera. "With so many routes currently operating in excess of 300 miles per day, staff has to plan carefully as to which routes these buses can be assigned." Ron Zirges, VVTA Director of Fleet and Facilities, is closely tracking all the variables that go into identifying the optimum range for these vehicles. As our studies progress, VVTA will likely explore hydrogen fueled buses because they can provide an extended range.

Contact: Craig Barnes: cbarnes@vvta.org / 760-995-3570

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ABOUT VICTOR VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Victor Valley Transit Authority (VVTA) is a public transit agency and Consolidated Transportation Services Agency (CTSA), providing bus, ADA paratransit, and vanpool service to California's High Desert. Its mission is to serve the community with excellent public transportation services in terms of quality, efficiency, and responsiveness.