

# FACT SHEET: **Transit**

## **Low-emission Diesel Electric Hybrid Buses**

### **Background**

Beginning in November 2010, the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) will launch a new fleet of 90 American-made, low-emission diesel electric hybrid buses.

VTA obtained a \$53.4 million American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grant from the federal government and also \$5.3 million in California

Proposition 1B funds to acquire the diesel electric hybrid buses. The new buses will allow VTA to replace older buses that have exceeded their useful life span and are experiencing increased operating and maintenance costs.

The new hybrid buses are being built by Gillig LLC in Hayward, California, which means VTA is helping stimulate the local economy by creating and keeping jobs here in the local Bay Area region, while also providing its riders with new low-emission buses that offer greater comfort and accessibility.

### **Vehicle Description:**

- The hybrid buses use nickel metal hydride (NiMH) batteries and a hybrid drive system built by Allison
- These vehicles meet the newest clean air standards issued by the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- The bus rear wheel wells are shielded, making bus operations safer in crowded areas
- The hybrid buses are 40 feet in length and are equipped to carry two bikes in a front exterior rack
- Six seats are designated as priority seating for seniors and mobility impaired individuals, total seating provided is 37, with up to another 24 riders standing

### **Delivery Schedule:**

- August 2010 VTA testing of pilot hybrid bus begins; VTA mechanics receive training on new hybrid technology, including new, sophisticated emissions control devices
- September VTA Board of Directors, as part of its Sept. 2 meeting, views pilot bus; Gillig begins manufacturing the remaining 69 vehicles, at a rate of approximately one a day
- November First hybrid buses placed into revenue service
- January 2011 Final delivery of all buses, including five buses outfitted with luggage racks for use on VTA's Airport Flyer (Line 10), which serves San Jose Mineta International Airport



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Transit  
Solutions for  
Santa Clara  
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## Vehicle Benefits:

### Accessibility

- VTA's Committee for Transit Accessibility participated in the review of accessibility standards for the new buses
- An upgraded wheelchair ramp with over 50 percent more weight capacity (950 lbs)
- The ramp has also been redesigned so that the maximum entry angle is less than 10 degrees
- New, easier to use, less intrusive, 3-point securement system for wheelchairs
- The rear doorways are 40 inches wide, compared to 31 inches on the buses being retired
- Bright yellow "stop requested" cords will replace the current grey cords

### Environmental

- 96 percent total reduction in emissions of smog-forming nitrogen oxides and a 90 percent reduction in particulate matter, when compared to the 1997 generation buses they will replace
- Hybrid technology is expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by an estimated 15 percent
- Low energy LED lights will be used in the interior of the buses

## How to Reach Us

If you have any question about VTA's new Diesel Electric Hybrid Buses, please call VTA's Community Outreach Department at (408) 321-7575, (TTY) for the hearing-impaired (408) 321-2330. You may also visit us on the web at [www.vta.org](http://www.vta.org), or email us at [community.outreach@vta.org](mailto:community.outreach@vta.org).



**VTA Mission:** VTA provides sustainable, accessible, community-focused transportation options that are innovative, environmentally responsible, and promote the vitality of our region.