



## **FTA Low/No Emission Program Awards \$2.35M Grant To SST** *Grant Purchases Three New Hybrid Buses & Overhauls Regional Coach*

**STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, COLORADO-August 16, 2022**-The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has awarded Steamboat Springs Transit (SST) a grant for \$2,353,400, including a local \$588,600 match, to purchase three new hybrid electric/diesel buses and the overhaul of one of its regional coaches.

"This is a tremendous deal for us and a significant benefit for the entire northwest region and everyone who rides SST," commented Transit Manager Jonathan Flint. "This grant will go a long way in ensuring that SST continues to provide convenient and reliable service as one of the most efficient rural transportation systems in the state."

The grant through the FTA 5339c – Low and No Emission program, will be applied to the purchase of hybrid buses to replace three diesel powered buses that have reached the end of their useful lives, all traveling more than 700,000 miles. The new buses will be 35-foot hybrid diesel/electric buses which have been proven to perform extremely well in the mountainous environment.



This award enables SST to complete the transition, first started in 2007, of its local fleet (currently 11 buses) to 100% hybrid/electric. With one hybrid/electric bus in the procurement pipeline, these new buses are an all-electric vehicle with a diesel generator that helps produce the electricity. With this electric capability, the generator can be turned off when the batteries are at full capacity and where "geo-fenced", in downtown and at the gondola base.

In addition, the monies will overhaul one diesel-fueled MCI commuter coach used for the regional bus service that is almost 20 years old to extend its useful life an additional decade. This project will include upgrades to the engine and transmission, suspension, air handling system, and electronics.

The City of Steamboat Springs & partners recently adopted the Routt County Climate Action Plan, which set a goal to reduce emissions in this sector by 98% by 2050 compared to the 2018 baseline (26%). This project delivers on the plan's strategies and actions by increasing local and regional transit services; improving transit quality and experience; and reducing single occupancy vehicle travel.

FTA's [Low or No Emission \(Low-No\) Grant Program](#) makes funding available to help transit agencies buy or lease U.S.-built low- or no-emission vehicles, including related equipment or facilities. For Fiscal Year 2022, approximately \$1.1 billion was awarded to 150 projects in 48 states and territories under this program.

During a typical year, SST logs more than 620,000 annual road miles from a pool of 40 full-time and seasonal drivers. The transit system utilizes 15 transit buses, four regional buses and one curb-to-curb paratransit shuttle to provide service to residents and guests.

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