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DART unveils Iowa's first all-electric, zero emission bus

DART will be adding seven electric buses to its fleet later this year thanks to a public-private partnership with MidAmerican Energy

Today the Des Moines Authority Regional Transit (DART) unveiled the first electric bus in the state of Iowa while announcing a pilot project where, in the coming months, DART will begin testing seven electric buses and adding them into service on the Route 60, which is the Ingersoll/University Avenue loop in Des Moines. The pilot project was made possible thanks to a public-private partnership with MidAmerican Energy who signed on to provide the local match for DART's Low- or No-Emission grant application with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), resulting in DART receiving a \$1.45 million grant.

"Today, DART and our region join other cities across the country who are piloting this new technology," said DART CEO Elizabeth Presutti. "Not only are we excited to offer cleaner transportation to Greater Des Moines, we are excited about the potential for these electric buses to save DART money in operating and maintenance costs. This historical first for the state of Iowa and DART was put in motion by the support of MidAmerican and for that we will always be grateful."

"MidAmerican Energy is proud to partner with DART to bring electric buses to greater Des Moines," Kathryn Kunert, vice president of economic connections and integration for MidAmerican, said. "By connecting our wind energy with environmentally friendly transportation technology we're continuing to build a sustainable future for our region."

Electric bus manufacturer, Proterra, says the transition to battery-electric buses presents multiple benefits to Greater Des Moines. Manufactured in the United States, Proterra battery-electric buses feature zero emissions which saves approximately 230,000 pounds of greenhouse gases annually when replacing a diesel bus. The purpose-built electric buses further offer a quieter ride for reduced noise pollution, greater efficiency, and lower operating costs with fewer parts compared to combustion engine vehicles.

"DART is constantly evaluating new technologies that allow it to operate more efficiently and today's event is just one more example of that," said Russ Trimble, Board Chair for DART's Commission and West Des Moines City Council Member. "On behalf of DART's Board of Commissioners, thank you MidAmerican for your support of this project and your commitment to renewable energy, which makes powering an electric fleet cost effective."

"There are milestones we can look back on and identify as critically important. Today is one of those milestones," said Adam Gregg, Lieutenant Governor of Iowa. "As Iowa works to protect, conserve, and enhance our natural resources and the environment, transitioning to electric buses will be noted as a significant example of what is possible through public-private partnerships. It also reinforces our commitment to the clean energy sector which employs over 32,200 Iowans."

Central Iowa residents will begin to see DART's electric buses on the road this fall as DART's more than 100 drivers learn how to operate the vehicles. DART anticipates adding electric buses into service on

the Route 60 later this year. This part of the pilot program enables DART to assess if the vehicles are getting the 150-230 miles per single charge as expected and set up measures to track overall performance and long-term financial savings.

“As excited as we are for riders to experience the difference, everyone will benefit from the introduction of electric buses,” added Presutti. “Those who walk, bike and travel along our streets will enjoy cleaner air, quieter surroundings and a healthier environment.”

MEDIA NOTE: Photos of the Oct. 1, 2020 event can be downloaded from the below links and video links can be found [here](#).

[Photo 1](#)

[Photo 2](#)

About DART

The Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority (DART) is Iowa's largest, and only, regional transit agency, providing service in and around Polk County. DART operates a family of transportation services, providing nearly 4.5 million annual rides that connect thousands of people every day to jobs, school, healthcare and other essential destinations. Twelve member governments make up DART's service area, where the agency carries out its mission to enrich lives, connect communities and expand opportunities for central Iowans. For more information about DART services, schedules, route changes, or directions to the nearest DART stop, visit the website at ridedart.com, download the free MyDART app or call 515-283-8100.

About MidAmerican Energy Company

MidAmerican Energy Company, headquartered in Des Moines, Iowa, serves more than 791,000 electric customers in Iowa, Illinois and South Dakota, and 771,000 natural gas customers in Iowa, Illinois, Nebraska and South Dakota. Information about MidAmerican Energy is available at MidAmericanEnergy.com and company social media channels.

About Proterra

Proterra is a leader in the design and manufacture of zero-emission, heavy-duty electric vehicles, enabling bus fleet operators to significantly reduce operating costs while delivering clean, quiet transportation to local communities across North America. The company's configurable Catalyst platform is designed to serve the daily mileage needs of a wide range of transit routes on a single charge. With industry-leading durability and energy efficiency based on rigorous U.S. independent testing, Proterra products are proudly designed, engineered, and manufactured in America, with offices in Silicon Valley, South Carolina, and Los Angeles. For more information, visit: <http://www.proterra.com> and follow us on Twitter @Proterra_Inc.

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