



OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION

A METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

2208 W. CHESTERFIELD BOULEVARD, SUITE 101, SPRINGFIELD, MO 65807
417-865-3047

April 15, 2021

The Honorable Billy Long
United States House of Representatives
2454 Rayburn HOB
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Long:

I would like to request your consideration for congressionally directed funding for **Electric Buses for City Utilities Transit**. City Utilities is not only the electric, gas, and water company for the City of Springfield, but also the transit provider. City Utilities fills a critical need providing transportation options to our community. This summer, CU will introduce the first two electric buses to their fleet. Additional funding will allow for more electric buses over the next five years be added. The current incorporation of electric buses, and CU's plan for future electric fleet expansion, aligns with the strategic and long-range goals of our community.

Our residents value a healthy, natural environment. Additional investment in electric buses will allow for the continuation of reliable, efficient, and environmentally friendly transportation that will help to shape the future of public transit in the Ozarks.

CU's effort to expand its implementation of electric buses supports the goals outlined in the region's Metropolitan Transportation Plan. These investments in transit infrastructure support economic vitality, protects and enhances the region's air quality, and encourages efficient transportation system management and operations. The Ozarks Transportation Organization (the Springfield area MPO) fully supports this project.

As project sponsor, OTO is willing to carry out the project and can obligate funding within the expected life of the next surface transportation reauthorization bill and according to the requirements for funding in said bill.

We appreciate your consideration for this project.

Sincerely,

Sara Fields



City Utilities Transit Electric Buses

Type of Project: Transit

Name of the Project: Electric Buses for City Utilities Transit

Location of the Project: Springfield MO, 65802 MO-7 Congressional District

Project Sponsor: Ozarks Transportation Organization (Springfield Area MPO) www.ozarkstransportation.org

Sponsor Point of Contact: Sara Fields, Executive Director 417-865-3042 ext 102.
sfields@ozarkstransporation.org

Project Description: Electric Buses for City Utilities Transit. City Utilities of Springfield Transit Department (CU) is converting the diesel-powered fleet full electric by 2037. CU secured funding in 2019 with a LowNo Grant for the first 2 electric buses and expects delivery in summer 2021. Phase I plans for 25% of the fleet as electric buses by 2026, with 4 additional electric buses and accompanying infrastructure upgrades. The range of electric buses could require expansion of the fleet (two buses) or charging infrastructure upgrades at the Transit Center. The expected cost of 6 buses and infrastructure upgrades would be \$6 million.

CU's long range plan of a fully electric transit fleet requires the purchase of 19 additional fixed route buses and infrastructure upgrades, with an estimated cost of about \$19 million. CU can serve as a model for fleet electrification across several industries due to its unique position as the local municipal electric, gas, water, telecommunications, and transit provider.

Amount Requested: \$4.8 million

Total Project Cost: \$6 million

Sources of Funding: 20% project match from City Utilities Ratepayers and Transit Farebox. The request can be fulfilled in \$1 million increments and the corresponding number of buses will be purchased should the award be less than the amount requested.

Project Phase: Construction

Expected Obligation Date: December 2024

NEPA Category of Action: Categorical Exclusion

Status of Environmental Review: Categorically excluded

Process to Provide for an Opportunity for Public Comment: During the development of the OTO metropolitan transportation plan, the public was specifically asked for input on needed projects. OTO has a specific website giveusyourinput.org where the public can comment at any time. Social media sites are continuously accepting public input. In addition, input is requested during the development of the annual OTO TIP.

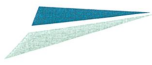
Prior Federal Funding: Yes

Source and Amount of Prior Federal Funding: \$1,496,329 for two electric buses (FTA FY19 Low or No Emission Bus Program)

Prior U.S. DOT Discretionary Grant Requests: Yes. FTA FY19 Low or No Emission Bus Program Projects (awarded) and FTA FY21 Low or No Emission Bus Program Projects for electric chargers \$443,000 (requested).

TIP/STIP Status: The project is not currently in the TIP but can be added once funding is approved. Typical TIP approvals can occur in as little as 30 days.

Metropolitan Long-Range Plan: Yes. Bus replacement is a priority in the long-range plan.



Springfield-Branson
NATIONAL AIRPORT

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springfield missouri 65802
p 417.868.0500 f 417.868.0501

April 16, 2021

The Honorable Billy Long
United States House of Representatives
2454 Rayburn HOB
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Long,

I am writing to express my strong support for the list of Transportation Priorities developed by the Ozarks Transportation Organization (OTO). We work closely with the OTO as a participant agency and agree that the list represents a regionally agreed to list of transportation priorities. It was developed using a data driven approach that includes public input and community leader discussion. These priorities include:

- US 60 Improvements in the OTO Urban Area
- I-44 Improvements in the OTO Urban Area
- US 65 Improvements in Christian County
- MM Highway in the City of Republic
- Regional Trail Expansion including the Wilson's Creek Boulevard Trail and the Chadwick Flyer Trail
- Electric Buses for City Utilities
- Grant Street Pedestrian Underpass

The Airport recognizes the need for a strong integrated multimodal transportation system. This list considers pedestrians, transit, and highway users. Proposed projects come from two counties and seven cities, two transit providers, and a public university. If completed, they will improve safety, accommodate growth, improve congestion, and promote economic develop for our region.

The Springfield-Branson National Airport would like to request your support for Congressionally Directed funds for these important transportation projects. We look forward to your partnership in making these projects a reality.

Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Respectfully,

Brian C. Weiler, A.A.E.
Director of Aviation



April 5, 2021

The Honorable Billy Long
United States House of Representatives
2454 Rayburn HOB
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Long,

I am writing to express support for the Ozarks Transportation Organization's list of Transportation Priorities. We work closely with the Ozarks Transportation Organization (OTO) and agree that the list represents a regionally agreed to list of transportation priorities. The OTO has developed a listing of priorities with a data driven approach that includes public input and community leader discussion.

These priorities include:

- US 60 Improvements in the OTO Urban Area
- I-44 Improvements in the OTO Urban Area
- US 65 Improvements in Christian County
- MM Highway in the City of Republic
- Regional Trail Expansion including the Wilson's Creek Boulevard Trail and the Chadwick Flyer Trail
- Electric Buses for City Utilities
- Grant Street Pedestrian Underpass

This multimodal list considers pedestrians, transit, and highway users. In addition, we have included projects representing two counties and seven cities, two transit providers, and a public university. The list represents projects needed to improve safety, accommodate growth, improve congestion, and promote economic develop.

In addition, each project has been carefully selected based upon the ability to ensure that it can be completed if federal funds were directed to the project.

The City of Republic would like to request your support for Congressionally Directed funds for these important transportation projects. We look forward to your partnership in making these projects a reality.

Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to contact me at 417-732-3111 with any questions.

Sincerely,

David Cameron
City Administrator

cc: Laura Burbridge, City Clerk



OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION
A METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

2208 W. CHESTERFIELD BOULEVARD, SUITE 101, SPRINGFIELD, MO 65807
417-865-3047

CERTIFICATION FOR INCLUSION IN THE OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The Ozarks Transportation Organization, which is the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Springfield, Missouri Urbanized Area, hereby certifies that upon award of the Congressionally Directed Federal Highway Administration Funding, converting City Utilities' bus fleet to electric buses will be included in the Transportation Improvement Program. The OTO recognizes the importance of this project and welcomes the federal investment in the region.

Signature

04-15-2021

Date

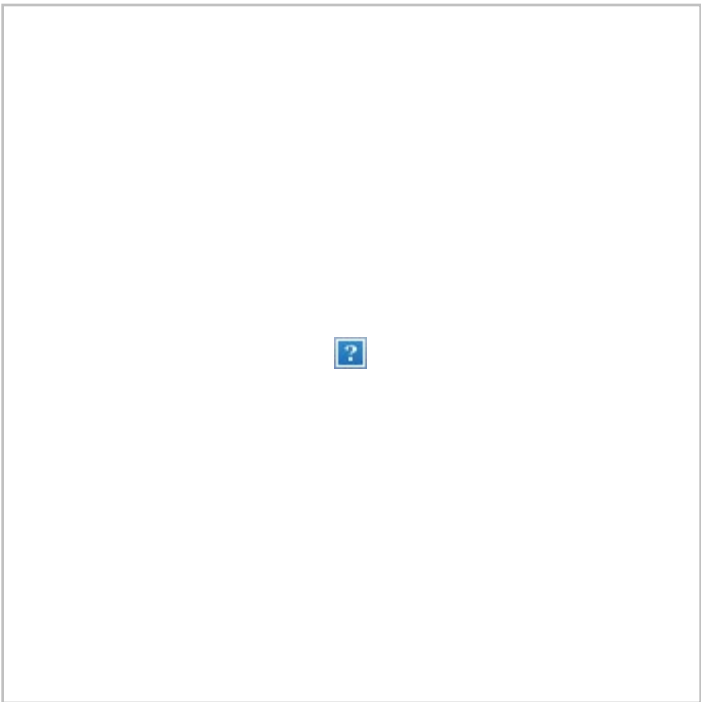
Sara J. Fields
Executive Director
Ozarks Transportation Organization

Listen Live · KSMU HD1
Fresh Air

Electric Buses To Arrive In Springfield In Just Over A Year

By MICHELE SKALICKY · NOV 13, 2019

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A Gillig EBus
CREDIT CITY UTILITIES

City Utilities is going to purchase two electric buses that will be the first of their kind in CU's fleet. The 35-foot low-floor Gillig electric buses are expected to reduce the fleet's usage of diesel fuel by nearly 36,000 gallons annually. The utility company expects to be able to eliminate 480 quarts of oil per year. That will equal a savings of approximately 432,000 gallons of diesel and 5,760 quarts of oil over the 12 year useful life of a fixed-route bus, according to CU director of transit, Matt Crawford.

"That's a significant savings for us, and it'll really reduce the amount of nitrogen oxide and carbon monoxide that we're putting into the environment," he said.

The new buses will be a little bit taller and sleeker in design, according to Crawford. Passengers

should notice a quieter commute on the new buses, and those on the street won't notice as much that a bus is nearby. Crawford believes there will be some sort of artificial noise to allow visually impaired riders to know that a bus is approaching.

CU will have had the two EBus about four years before it will be time to replace any more buses in the fleet, he said. That time will be a sort of test period to determine if there will be future EBus purchases.

"This'll give us a chance to really look at the electric buses, see how they perform on our routes. Do we get the full day out of the bus that we do with the diesel bus? Do they have the power that we need? Are they providing all the benefits we expected them to? It gives us two or three years to assess that before we have to start the planning process to purchase the next buses in four to five years," he said.

When the buses arrive in December 2020, CU will retire four of its current fixed-route diesel buses. During the most recent review of the utility's fleet by the Federal Transit Authority, Crawford said the agency asked them to reduce their fleet since they had somewhat of a high spare ratio.

What do you do with a bus that's no longer needed? Typically, buses that were purchased with some level of federal funding are auctioned off to the general public. But the buses that CU will retire when the EBus arrive will have to be disabled, he said. He hopes local partner agencies, such as the Springfield Police Department, will be able to use them for training. They'll then be disabled and sold for scrap.

The electric buses are estimated to cost \$1.8 to \$2 million. They'll be purchased with a \$1.4 million FTA grant and \$368,000 from the Volkswagen Trust settlement through the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. The total funding amount covers two EBus vehicles, two charging stations capable of charging four buses and training for service technicians, according to CU.

TAGS:

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EBUSES

ELECTRIC BUSES

MATT CRAWFORD



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OZARKS

CU adding two zero-emission electric buses next year

Wes Johnson News-Leader

Published 10:00 p.m. CT Nov. 13, 2019

City Utilities has announced plans to buy two electric-powered transit buses that will arrive in Springfield by the end of 2020.

CU says the buses, each costing \$867,000, will help the utility reduce its diesel fuel costs, lower harmful tailpipe emissions and lower the fleet's overall carbon emissions.

“The replacement of four 35-foot low-floor fixed route buses with two 35-foot low-floor electric buses will reduce our fleet's usage of diesel fuel by nearly 36,000 gallons annually,” said Matt Crawford, director of transit.

“We will be able to eliminate 480 quarts of oil annually due to the reduced preventative maintenance. This is a savings of 432,000 gallons of diesel and 5,760 quarts of oil over the 12 year useful life of a fixed-route bus.”

More: City Utilities offers tips to prepare your home for colder weather

The two buses, manufactured by Gillig, are battery powered and will be the first zero-emission vehicles in CU's 28-bus fleet. The two buses will replace four older diesel-powered buses.

On the technical side, CU says the electric buses will reduce harmful emissions by 0.12 metric tons of fine particulate matter, 9.6 metric tons of nitrogen oxides, 3.1 metric tons of hydrocarbons, and 37.2 metric tons of carbon monoxide emissions on an annual basis.

The vehicles were purchased with \$1.4 million from the Federal Transit Authority's Low or No Emission Vehicle Program and \$368,000 from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' Volkswagen Trust settlement.

CU will cover \$6,000 of remaining costs. The total purchase includes the two electric buses, two charging stations capable of handling four electric buses, and training for service technicians.

Crawford said CU will be evaluating how well the buses operate.

"We hope to have 2-3 years to assess what the actual run time will be on a charge," Crawford said. "This will let us test them on each route, different weather and with different drivers. We are certain they will require different driving habits than diesel buses and that the manufacturer will help train for success."

If the buses perform as expected, Crawford said more electric buses would likely be purchased as older diesel buses are retired.

More: City Utilities eyes wider recreational uses for Fellows Lake

"We have been told the batteries will run 250 miles on a charge, we are currently expecting them to run 200 miles and hope to get 12 hours or more of run time," he said.

Crawford said the buses will be quiet, so the manufacturer plans to equip each bus with an artificial noisemaker.

"This is of particular interest to our visually impaired passengers," Crawford said. "We will actively pursue something with the manufacturer to ensure passenger and pedestrian safety. Currently, we have a forward collision avoidance alert system on each bus that also alerts when pedestrians are too close to the path of the bus."