



Enriching Lives, Connecting Communities, Expanding Opportunities.

DART staff,

As you may recall, DART purchased seven 40-foot battery operated electric buses from Proterra and the first two buses arrived at DART Way this week! The remaining five buses will be delivered over the next several weeks and months.

Welcoming electric buses to our fleet has been in the works for several years and was made possible with financial support from MidAmerican Energy Company. These new buses are one way DART is working to be innovative and lead the charge in adopting sustainable transportation solutions for Greater Des Moines.

As is the case with any new technology, we know we have a lot to learn about how to operate and maintain these new buses. As the buses arrive on site, the maintenance, safety and training teams will be working hard to get the buses road ready and ensure all of our staff are ready to drive and maintain them. As part of this process, each bus will be wrapped with a special design to ensure these seven buses stand out from the rest of our fleet.

Electric buses operate quite differently from traditional fuel-powered buses. To ensure a smooth transition, maintenance will receive training in September and operators will receive training over the course of several weeks between September and October.

Our goal is to have the buses in service by the end of 2020, operating primarily on Local Route 60 - University/Ingersoll for a year as part of a pilot program. Our cold Iowa winters and hot, humid Iowa summers are sure to test the buses' battery life!

In the coming months, there will be several opportunities to celebrate the arrival of our electric buses. You will have an opportunity to check out the new buses during the upcoming employee appreciation event, which will be scheduled soon.

In late September DART will host an unveiling event, introducing the buses to the public. Until the unveiling event, I ask that you keep the special bus wrap "under wraps". The plan is to make a big splash at the unveiling event.

Adding electric buses to our fleet is a big milestone for DART, and we are excited to celebrate it with you and all of Greater Des Moines.



Sincerely,
Amanda

**Amanda Wanke | Deputy Chief Executive Officer & Chief
Operations Officer**

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