

Wichita Transit Introduces New Buses

Wednesday March 27, 9:30 am at Transit offices, 777 Waterman

Purpose...To introduce 4 new buses and educate the public about Wichita Transit fleet issues.

Event

- A press conference to introduce the new buses to the community. The Transit Director will share facts about the new buses and about the condition of the fleet and efforts to modernize the fleet.
- The Mayor will give the council and members of the media a bus ride around the transit facility.

Bus facts

- Cost \$368,000 per bus
- Total cost \$1,080,000 (83% Federal Transit Administration and 17% local contribution)
- Buses have diesel engines that comply with 2010 EPA standards – burn an additive called DEF (Diesel Exhaust Fluid) that significantly improves air quality
- Buses will get better miles per gallon than existing fleet
- They will have a lower operating and maintenance cost

Fleet facts

- WT has a fleet of 56 buses, 24 paratransit vehicles
- WT buses operate 1.8 million miles annually
- A bus fleet should have an average age of 6 years old. WT fleet average age is 10 years
- A bus has a useful life of 12 years
- By 2014, 36 buses (64%) of the WT fleet will be over 12 years old making it one of the oldest fleets in the country
- Old buses
 - Have higher operating and maintenance costs
 - Have poorer mileage and are not as environmentally friendly
 - Lead to poor service quality as declining dependability
- Part of WT financial challenges are directly related to the fleet condition and repair costs
- On Tuesday the council approved a WT grant application for bus replacement and a 5 year bus procurement goal

Alternative Fuels

- New buses burn cleaner diesel fuel
- WT will investigate the potential for compressed natural gas (CNG)
 - Feasibility study will examine the cost to convert the fleet to CNG over a multiple year plan
 - Study will be completed by summer 2013.