

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS
RELATED TO DVRPC BOARD ACTION ITEMS

March 26, 2020

2e. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Action

PA19-116: SEPTA Bus Purchase Program (MPMS #90512), SEPTA

From: Claudia Crane

County: Philadelphia

Zip Code: 19130

Date Received: 03/25/2020

Comment/Question: Electric Buses are the only reasonable way forward. Electric vehicles are so much more energy efficient, and even if the electricity is fossil-fuel derived, the well-to-wheel amount of fuel per vehicle mile traveled is about half that of "natural" gas or petroleum products.

Response: Thank you for your comment. Your original comment was forwarded to the DVRPC Board, DVRPC's Capital Programs, and SEPTA.

This TIP action is to complete the existing procurement of 525 hybrid-electric buses from New Flyer, SEPTA is actively working on a battery-electric bus master plan to identify solutions to a complex series of challenges associated with adopting the emerging technology. The master plan builds off the challenges and lessons learned from SEPTA's pilot program that deployed 25 battery-electric buses, which represents the largest fleet of battery-electric buses on the East Coast. SEPTA has received a grant to acquire 10 additional battery-electric buses, which will be deployed based on the principles being established through the master planning process. SEPTA is actively involved in industry working groups to remain on the cutting edge as this emerging technology evolves and as challenges associated with its deployment, such as power capacity and charging infrastructure, are addressed.

From: Ann Dixon

County: N/A

Zip Code: N/A

Date Received: 03/26/2020

Comment/Question: I understand that this arrangement has already been made. Future purchases NEED TO BE ELECTRIC BUSES to combat our current climate crisis. What plans does SEPTA have to make this happen? A full financial report and plan has never been made available to the public.

Response: Thank you for your comment. Your original comment was forwarded to the DVRPC Board, DVRPC's Capital Programs, and SEPTA.

This TIP action is to complete the existing procurement of 525 hybrid-electric buses from New Flyer, SEPTA is actively working on a battery-electric bus master plan to identify solutions to a complex series of challenges associated with adopting the emerging technology. The master plan builds off the challenges and lessons learned from SEPTA's pilot program that deployed 25 battery-electric buses, which represents the largest fleet of battery-electric buses on the East Coast. SEPTA has received a grant to acquire 10 additional battery-electric buses, which will be deployed based on the principles being established through the master planning process. SEPTA is actively involved in industry working groups to remain on the cutting edge as this emerging technology evolves and as challenges associated with its deployment, such as power capacity and charging infrastructure, are addressed.