CT orders hybrid buses, says Gossett

Community Transit (CT) has ordered the area’s first hybrid diesel-electric buses, said County Council Chair Dave Gossett, who serves on CT’s board of directors.

“Fifteen of the hybrids will run along the new Highway 99 high-speed transit corridor between Everett Station and Aurora Village, starting in 2009,” said Gossett.

“This is the direction to go in an era of climate change,” he said. “Cleaner buses providing fast and dependable service are exactly the kind of good service commuters need.”

A CT spokesperson said the agency opted for the hybrids after an analysis showed that although they cost more to buy, the hybrid buses offer many advantages over diesel-only vehicles, including cheaper operation costs due to lower fuel costs for this high-mileage service. Hybrid buses also feature lower emissions, better reliability, smoother acceleration, and are quieter.

The line will serve about 14 stops each way, said CT, with buses running every 10 minutes throughout the day. Transit signal priority intersections that can extend green lights a few seconds for late-running buses, and business access-transit lanes on much of the corridor also will keep buses moving quickly.

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