
Metro Area Transit announces the delivery of six 2010 New Flyer buses.

FARGO, ND (7 June 2010) – Metro Area Transit (MAT) is proud to announce the delivery of six 2010 New Flyer buses, collectively valued at almost \$2.3 million, which will be used on its fixed routes throughout the Fargo-Moorhead metropolitan area. Five of the buses are owned by the City of Fargo and one by the City of Moorhead.

The New Flyer buses each have a capacity of 59 passengers and, among their many amenities, feature front and rear destination signs (which will make it easier for passengers to identify the route number), automatic vehicle locator (AVL) on-board equipment and sophisticated safety technologies. The buses will be easily identifiable among others in the fleet, as they feature ARRA logos prominently displayed on several areas in the interior and exterior of the vehicles.

The six buses were purchased with funding from the federal government's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, which was passed by the 111th United States Congress and signed into law by President Barack Obama. The total cost of each bus was \$380,000, which was paid entirely by ARRA funds with no local costs incurred by neither the City of Fargo nor the City of Moorhead.

The buses were produced by New Flyer Industries of America in Saint Cloud, Minnesota, which was recently visited and promoted by Vice President Joseph Biden as an ARRA success story for expanding its workforce, manufacturing American-made products and improving the transit sector of the U.S. transportation system.

Jim Gilmour, Planning Director for the City of Fargo, said, "The new buses will allow MAT to continue to provide reliable transit service for the next decade."

Julie Bommelman, Transit Administrator for the City of Fargo, stated, "There is an ever-growing need for safe, reliable mass transit in the Fargo-Moorhead metropolitan area. Purchasing additional buses and equipment for the transit system by utilizing ARRA funds has had a significant impact on our system. As we move toward the future, we look forward to the contributions MAT can make to transportation in the Fargo-Moorhead area."

Lori Van Beek, Transit Manager for the City of Moorhead, remarked, "Moorhead's new bus will provide bus service for 12 to 15 years and, with 100% ARRA funding, frees up local dollars for other needed projects."

The delivery of these new buses brings the total number of vehicles in the MAT fleet to 37 fixed route and 14 Paratransit vehicles. MAT also received funds through ARRA to purchase additional bus passenger-waiting shelters, a new electronic farebox system, maintenance equipment and passenger information display kiosks.

Metro Area Transit (MAT) is the largest rideshare program in the area, offering 25 fixed routes in Fargo, Moorhead and West Fargo, in addition to Paratransit demand-response services. In 2009, a record 1.9 million rides were provided on the MAT fixed route system.