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DART's all-electric, zero emission buses are now in service
Catch a ride on Iowa's first electric buses

Today the Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority (DART) put Iowa's first electric buses into service on Local Route 60—the University/Ingersoll loop in Des Moines. DART is testing seven electric buses as part of a pilot project made possible thanks to a public-private partnership with MidAmerican Energy who signed on to provide the local match for DART's Low- or No-Emission grant application with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

DART's fleet of electric buses were manufactured in the United States by Proterra. The buses offer a quieter ride for reduced noise pollution, greater efficiency, and lower operating costs with fewer parts compared to combustion engine vehicles.

"Today, in an effort to operate efficiently and embrace innovative technologies DART has joined other cities across the country by putting electric buses into service," said DART CEO Elizabeth Presutti. "As an organization, we are excited to offer cleaner transportation to Greater Des Moines, saving money in operating and maintenance costs. This milestone would not be possible without MidAmerican Energy's commitment to renewable energy and our community."

DART will spend the first 12 months closely monitoring and evaluating how the buses perform both individually and against their diesel counterparts. DART has identified several measures to track overall performance and long-term financial savings. Key performance indicators DART will monitor include:

- Range, which monitors how far the vehicles will travel on a full charge. DART will also measure what factors affect the range of the vehicle and how it can manage these factors to maximize range and minimize expense. The buses get an estimated 150-230 miles per charge.
- Down time, which is the amount of time a bus is not operational due to maintenance.
- Cost of preventative maintenance. With 30% fewer parts, the electric buses should need less maintenance and also experience less brake wear due to the unique braking system.
- Fuel cost and energy expense.
- Long-term viability of the carbon fiber composite body. Normal bus bodies corrode and rust over time, typically in 13–15 years.

"As excited as we are for riders to experience the difference, everyone will benefit from the introduction of electric buses," added Presutti. "I hope you will catch a ride on Iowa's first electric buses and learn firsthand how they are clean, quiet and support DART's mission of connecting our communities."

MEDIA NOTE: Photos of the electric buses can be downloaded from the below links and video links can be found [here](#).

[Photo 1](#)

[Photo 2](#)

About DART

The Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority (DART) is Iowa's largest, and only, regional transit agency, providing service in and around Polk County. DART operates a family of transportation services, providing nearly 4.5 million annual rides that connect thousands of people every day to jobs, school, healthcare and other essential destinations. Twelve member governments make up DART's service area, where the agency carries out its mission to enrich lives, connect communities and expand opportunities for central Iowans. For more information about DART services, schedules, route changes, or directions to the nearest DART stop, visit the website at ridedart.com, download the free MyDART app or call 515-283-8100.

About MidAmerican Energy Company

MidAmerican Energy Company, headquartered in Des Moines, Iowa, serves more than 791,000 electric customers in Iowa, Illinois and South Dakota, and 771,000 natural gas customers in Iowa, Illinois, Nebraska and South Dakota. Information about MidAmerican Energy is available at MidAmericanEnergy.com and company social media channels.

About Proterra

Proterra is a leader in the design and manufacture of zero-emission, heavy-duty electric vehicles, enabling bus fleet operators to significantly reduce operating costs while delivering clean, quiet transportation to local communities across North America. The company's configurable Catalyst platform is designed to serve the daily mileage needs of a wide range of transit routes on a single charge. With industry-leading durability and energy efficiency based on rigorous U.S. independent testing, Proterra products are proudly designed, engineered, and manufactured in America, with offices in Silicon Valley, South Carolina, and Los Angeles. For more information, visit: <http://www.proterra.com> and follow us on Twitter @Proterra_Inc.

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