



Tuesday, March 2, 2010

Province, Halifax Regional Municipality Invest in Hybrid Bus Technology

Public transit is even better for the environment with two new hybrid buses on the roads in Halifax Regional Municipality.

The vehicles were unveiled today by Bill Estabrooks, Minister responsible for Conserve Nova Scotia, and Peter Kelly, Mayor of Halifax Regional Municipality.

"Hybrid technology has the potential to save money and reduce greenhouse-gas emissions for urban transit operators across the province," said Mr. Estabrooks. "Bus riders will enjoy a quieter and more comfortable commute, and everyone will benefit from cleaner air."

The total cost is \$2.4 million. Conserve Nova Scotia contributed \$600,000 to Metro Transit's investment.

"Our transit fleet has been progressive in testing a number of alternative fuels and emission reducing products over the years," said Mayor Kelly. "The buses will initially be used in the downtown core on Route 1 Spring Garden and Route 10 Dalhousie.

"This will maximize benefit to both passengers and citizens alike, since each articulated hybrid bus replaces at least 80 cars in rush hour."

These hybrids are equipped with 2010 emission compliant diesel engines and are expected to use 25 to 30 per cent less fuel while reducing greenhouse gas emissions by about 30 per cent.

Together, the two vehicles could save more than 49,000 kilograms of carbon dioxide per year.

"We are thrilled the province and the municipality are working together to increase the sustainability of the public transit system," said Jen Powley, sustainable transportation co-ordinator at the Ecology Action Centre. "It's up to us as individuals to take advantage of these options to reduce our carbon footprint."

Metro Transit will evaluate the fuel usage and operating costs over the next 18 months. More information is available at www.GetOnBoardHRM.ca