



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Wave Transit Awarded Five New Low-Emissions Buses

WILMINGTON, NC – Smaller, greener vehicles will roll along Wave Transit’s routes soon thanks to a \$2.86 million award from the Federal Transportation Administration’s (FTA) Low Emissions-No Emissions Grant.

The new vehicles run on low emission compressed natural gas (CNG) and include four fixed route buses and one shuttle. Once the new buses are in service, 100% of Wave Transit’s fixed route fleet will be powered by greener CNG, completing the transition from diesel that began in 2012. Fewer shuttle vehicles have exhausted their useful life since acquisition. The new CNG shuttle pushes that fleet to 60% running on greener fuel.

The FTA [announced](#) this week 130 awards for transit projects totaling nearly \$1.7 billion from President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Wave Transit was chosen out of 475 eligible projects and awarded its full ask of nearly \$3 million - the third highest award in the state behind the North Carolina Department of Transportation on behalf of ICPTA and City of Charlotte. The Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority (Wave Transit) Board of Directors authorized staff to submit for Low-No Emission funding in March. To receive the federal funding, a local contribution of \$405,000 was allocated to the project.

“Sustainable transportation is a key tenet of the City’s Sustainability Program,” said City of Wilmington Manager and Wave Transit Board Chair Tony Caudle, “We appreciate Wave Transit’s shared focus on greener transit and look forward to the benefits of smaller, greener buses on our streets.” The new buses are just 29-feet long, which is shorter than the rest of the fixed route fleet.

Funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for transit projects supports the creation of new manufacturing and maintenance jobs to fulfill orders from the 130 award recipients. Manufacturing the vehicles will take up to 18 months from the order date and should be on the road by the end of 2024.

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