



ZeroBus at the Louisville Slugger Museum and Factory stop downtown

The future lands in Louisville with all-electric buses

Federal investment brings cleaner air, quiet rides, and a boost to city's livability

Louisville's air quality, vitality and livability are all benefiting from federal investment in zero-emissions all-electric buses circulating around the downtown. The ten sleek "ZeroBus" vehicles hit the road in January, replacing diesel-fueled trolley buses, the highest polluting vehicles in the Transit Authority of River City (TARC) fleet.

Downtown residential neighborhoods, workers and millions of visitors to Louisville each year now have attractive, clean, safe and accessible transportation to access everything the heart of the community has to offer. On the first Friday of each month, the ZeroBus provides transportation during extended hours throughout downtown to restaurants, museums, concerts and other happenings as part of a public celebration, The Republic Bank First Friday hop. Rides are frequent and fare-free with Wi-Fi onboard.

Zero buses also mean healthier air, a concern in the downtown area. With no tailpipe emissions, the ZeroBus fleet reduces harmful air emissions by 600 pounds a month – 7,200 pounds a year – compared to the trolleys.

The public has embraced the ZeroBus, with downtown business and civic organizations providing support. These colorful, oval-shaped, quiet vehicles illustrate that the city is serious about embracing a forward-thinking image and clean fuels technology advancements.

The ZeroBus service was possible with an initial \$4.4 million Federal Transit Administration Clean Fuels Program grant. That award led the state of Kentucky to provide a matching \$4.4 million grant in federal Congestion, Mitigation and Air Quality Program funds. The additional funding allowed TARC to replace the entire trolley bus operation with 10 all-electric vehicles made in America by Proterra Inc. of Greenville, S.C. Louisville Metro also provided \$500,000 to the project, the first time local government provided direct funding for a public transportation improvement.

Louisville can look forward to many years of zero-emissions transportation around downtown, resulting in a healthier and more vibrant community.