

City of Shafter Adds Zenith Electric Vans to Fleet Dial-A-Ride Service

The City of Shafter in Kern County has purchased four Zenith electric vans for use in its Dial-A-Ride program.

With funding from the [California Heavy-Duty Voucher Incentive Project \(HVIP\)](#), the City of Shafter received \$60,000 off the cost of the first three vans and \$50,000 for the fourth vehicle, according to Administrative Services Director Jim Zervis. For the first three vehicles in a fleet, HVIP provides additional Plus Up funding of \$10,000. HVIP is administered through a partnership between the California Air Resources Board (ARB) and CALSTART.

Zenith vans can be configured to carry up to 16 passengers or cargo, making it an option for businesses and public agencies. In addition to HVIP funding, businesses also may qualify for a federal tax credit of \$7,500 per vehicle.

Zervis said Shafter has been able to get up to 100 miles per charge on a consistent basis. In addition to offering batteries with ranges of 80 and 100 miles, Zenith recently announced the addition of a new battery upgrade option that will get up to 145 miles between charges.

“This new technology could be useful for some applications,” said James Cooper, Regional Manager for Zenith Sales. The 145-mile range battery pack is a \$15,000 option with a minimum purchase of five units, Cooper added. Base prices are \$99,000 for the cargo van and \$109,000 for the passenger van. Level 2 charging equipment is included with each van, so buyers only need to pay any electrical costs for site installation.

Time for a full charge is about 6.5 hours, according to Cooper, but an upgrade to cut that time to just four hours is available. Other options include a wheelchair lift, seat belts and a backup camera.

Cooper said Zenith has a number of passenger vans currently operating as shuttles for hotels and airports as well as cargo vans being used by companies such as FedEx and DHL.

“They are really a hit in the community,” said Zervis. One key advantage has been an increase in seating capacity by 50 percent, he said. They had been using six-passenger minivans previously, and Shafter configured the Zenith vans to seat nine passengers and the driver.

Another transit agency in the Valley will be getting Zenith vans as well. The Fresno County Rural Transit Agency has received funding from the Low Carbon Transit Operation Program (see related article in this issue) to acquire four vans.



Zenith vans run entirely on electricity and can be configured for either cargo or passengers, as the City of Shafter does for its Dial-A-Ride transit service. Administrative Services Director Jim Zervis says the electric vans have been a hit with residents, who like the quiet ride and colorful wraps featuring community members.

For more information about Zenith vans, visit their website at www.Zenith-Motors.com or contact Cooper by phone at (812)655-6091 or email at james.cooper@zenith-motors.com.