

Stockton RTD Riders Help Proterra Travel 2 Million Zero-Emission Miles

Proterra, which has operated all-electric buses in Stockton since 2013, surpassed 2 million miles of revenue service in March and currently is at more than 2.2 million miles. Proterra to date has sold a total of 155 vehicles and related charging equipment to 16 municipal and university transit agencies.

In 2013, the San Joaquin Regional Transit District (RTD) in Stockton became the first transit agency in Northern California, and only the fourth in the nation, to operate fully electric transit buses. With a \$2.56 million grant from the California Energy Commission (CEC), two Proterra buses launched a two-year demonstration project administered by CALSTART. Last year, RTD was one of 10 agencies nationwide to receive funding from the Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) through its Low and No Emission Vehicle Deployment (NoLo) Program. The \$4.7 million FTA grant, which is being supplemented by funding from the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, will help fund the purchase of additional buses and another fast-charging station from Proterra. The two original Proterra buses currently are in use at RTD, with more buses coming soon.

“Our goal is to grow our fleet to 15 electric buses,” said Max Vargas, RTD’s Public Affairs Manager. Vargas said RTD’s plans include having “the first all-electric BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) corridor in the nation.” He said the BRT route is targeted for South Stockton, an area identified by local health officials as being affected by higher rates of pollution and health disparities, key attributes that can benefit from an all-electric route.

Other Valley cities may be adding electric buses to their fleets in the future as well. Golden Empire Transit (GET) and Kern Council of Governments on March 4 hosted Proterra at GET’s Bakersfield facility, where guests were able to ride through downtown on the Catalyst all-electric bus, which is available in either a 35-foot or 40-foot configuration. Proterra also offers extended-range and fast-charging options, with charging taking as little as five minutes at an on-route station or a full recharge in about 90 minutes at an in-depot charger.

In addition to cutting fueling costs dramatically and reducing harmful air pollutants, Proterra notes that the electric version of the transit buses saves more than \$6,000 per year in maintenance costs over traditional diesel technologies. In aggregate, Proterra has saved transit agencies across North America more than 469,000 gallons in fuel and prevented more than 8.5 million pounds of CO₂ emissions, according to the company’s website.

With roots in California, Proterra’s corporate headquarters is in



Proterra recently demonstrated its Catalyst all-electric bus at Golden Empire Transit (GET) in Bakersfield. Stockton’s San Joaquin Regional Transit District (RTD) received its first two Proterra buses in 2013 and has the goal of putting 15 all-electric buses into service, including the first all-electric BRT route. (Bottom Photo: RTD.)

Burlingame and its West Coast manufacturing facility is located in the City of Industry. This year, Proterra noted it will nearly double its production capacity as an increasing number of transit agencies add zero-emission buses to their fleets. With California’s Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) incentivizing commercial vehicle electrification, CALSTART on March 29 conducted a webinar titled “Low Carbon Fuel Standard Credits for Electric Fleets.” CALSTART webinars can be accessed by member companies through its website, www.calstart.org.

To see Proterra’s news release, [click here](#), or go to www.proterra.com for more information.