

**August 25, 2010**  
**Energy Commission Business Meeting**  
**Item #7**

**FOOTHILL TRANSIT**

**Grant Agreement ARV-10-005**  
**for the**  
**Ecoliner Electric Bus Demonstration Project (EEBDP)**

**Abstract**

The Foothill Transit Ecoliner electric bus demonstration project will build two quick charge stations for up to 12 Ecoliner 35-foot buses manufactured by Proterra LLC. Three of the buses are already purchased and being placed into service. The project will install "halo" inductive charging systems. The halo inductive charging system can recharge the bus batteries from 10 percent to 95 percent charge in ten minutes or less. Project will provide information on battery life and performance with this type of charging. The Energy Commission will provide \$200,000 in Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Transportation program funds. Additional match funding of \$3,200,000 will be provided by the project participants.

The goal of this project is market transformation and a cost effective option for the replacement of transit buses through the demonstration of these electric buses and their charging system at Foothill Transit in West Covina, California. Data will be gathered to provide Proterra with battery and charger performance.

**Participants**

Foothill Transit is one of the largest municipal public transportation providers in Los Angeles County operating 314 buses. Foothill Transit is the first transit entity in California to commit to the 35-foot composite body electric transit buses for everyday revenue service by ordering three buses from Proterra LLC in May 2009. Foothill Transit's experience with advanced vehicle technology project management, performance data collection protocols, project public relations, education, and awareness campaigns will be critical to coordinating data collection, reporting, and public information releases to other transit providers who seek to implement this technology.

Proterra LLC, with corporate headquarters in Golden, Colorado, was founded in 2004 by the principals who designed and built 36- and 45-foot compressed natural gas–electric hybrid shuttle buses for the famous Denver 16<sup>th</sup> Street Mall. In addition Proterra

has extensive in-house expertise for the design of composite body technology. Proterra is the only electric bus manufacturer that houses this expertise under one roof, allowing for ease of development for the partnering transit agencies.

AeroVironment, with corporate headquarters in Monrovia, California will provide Proterra contractual support for the charging stations.

## **Benefits**

This project will provide the halo rapid charging systems to allow Foothill Transit to use electric buses in advance of the California Air Resources Board's Zero Emission Bus purchase rules for 2012.