



June 15, 2009

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START's New Hybrid Buses are Here

Jackson, WY – Last week START took delivery on two 29ft low floor Gillig Hybrid buses to be used primarily for the Town Shuttle. These buses are powered by a clean diesel hybrid electrical propulsion system. They are an eco-friendly alternative for public transportation.

Reduced emissions and fuel savings are just some of the benefits of these new hybrids.

“We are excited about the new hybrid buses. Not only are they better for the environment, but they are a comfortable ride,” said Michael Wackerly, START Administrator. “These buses will be great for our town shuttle. We anticipate they will be quieter than the standard diesel buses, so they will reduce the noise of buses operating in town.”

The purchase price of one of the two buses is funded by a federal stimulus grant covering 100% of the cost. The purchase price of the other bus is funded by a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant covering 80% of the cost. The Town of Jackson and Teton County both contribute to provide the 20% local match necessary to fund the rest of the cost. It is expected that using these buses will reduce fuel consumption by approximately 35%. Over the twelve year life of the bus, this fuel savings will more than make up for the purchase price of the hybrids.

“We are very proud that they are the first hybrid buses in the state of Wyoming,” Wackerly said. “This is another way that Jackson and Teton County are at the forefront of environmental consciousness.”

The hybrids have a new design as well. You will see them around town painted in START Bus blue with the START logo and the bucking horse and rider on the side. These buses should be in service by early next week.