

MTA Press Releases

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Press Release

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NYC Transit

IMMEDIATE

MTA Deploys First All-Electric Articulated Bus Fleet to 14th Street Busway

15 New Electric Articulated Buses Will Serve M14 Select Bus Service Route as Part of Fast Forward Plan to Modernize Fleet, Decrease NYC Transit's Carbon Footprint

2020-2024 Capital Plan Includes \$1.1 Billion to Purchase 500 New Electric Buses to Serve All Five Boroughs

Newly Released Data Shows Growing Popularity and Success of M14 SBS and 14th Street Busway, Attracting New Ridership with Sustained Increase

Photos from the Event are Available [Here](#)

MTA New York City Transit today deployed the first of its new all-electric articulated bus fleet on one of the city's busiest crosstown routes – the 14th Street busway – as part of the agency's plan to enhance and modernize the bus fleet with zero-emissions technology that will deliver environmental benefits for all New Yorkers. The all-electric articulated bus represents the first of approximately 500 electric buses that will be purchased as part of the historic 2020-2024 Capital Plan and will serve all five boroughs. New York City Transit also released new data showing the growing popularity and success of the M14 Select Bus Service and the 14th Street busway.

"We are committed to a state-of-the-art bus fleet across the entire city that is green and sustainable, and that means moving toward all-electric technology," **said NYC Transit President Andy Byford**. "Our Fast Forward plan provides a blueprint on how we can work with vendors and other stakeholders to achieve that goal in all five boroughs. We're also thrilled about the popularity of the M14 and the busway that's helping to enable its success."

"Our first all-electric articulated fleet represents the future of MTA bus service and I'm excited for our customers to see and experience the difference," **said Craig Cipriano, Acting President of MTA Bus Company and Senior Vice President of NYC Transit's Department of Buses**. "This is a historic day for MTA buses and the start of our journey to a zero-emissions fleet that will set the standard for the rest of the nation as its largest public bus system."

The new electric articulated buses represent the next generation of MTA buses as the first to be delivered of the MTA's own electric fleet, just months after its iconic blue-and-white RTS buses were retired from service after nearly 40 years as a workhorse of the industry. The MTA currently operates a fleet of 10 electric standard buses, which are leased for a 3-year pilot program to test the all-electric technology for capability and durability of around-the-clock four-season usage. In January 2019, the MTA Board approved the purchase of 15 all-electric articulated buses, 16 in-depot chargers and one mobile charging unit from New Flyer of America Inc. The delivery of the first wave of the 15 buses is scheduled for completion in March 2020 with an incentive for earlier delivery. These 15 buses will be deployed on the crosstown M14 route SBS, which serves more than 30,000 weekday customers and provides a crucial transit link and alternate  Project service to thousands of customers.

The 2020-2024 Capital Plan accelerates the transition to a fleet composed fully of zero-emissions electric buses. The MTA plans to invest \$1.1 billion to modify depots for electric bus operations, and to purchase 500 electric buses, including replacement buses and some additional buses. The program enables the MTA to acquire only electric buses beginning in 2029. Future all-electric buses will be deployed in neighborhoods across the five boroughs, after depots are upgraded to accommodate the new technology.

MTA New York City Transit also released new data showing that customers are increasingly choosing the M14 SBS even during hours when  service is running at peak frequency, in an example of a bus line serving as a comparably fast and convenient alternative to a parallel subway line. These ridership increases are sustained despite seasonal fluctuations.

A chart comparing 2018 and 2019 ridership by peak periods on the M14 is below:

2018	Weekday AM peak: 6-9 a.m.	Weekday PM peak: 4-7 p.m.	Saturday (all day)	Sunday (all day)
July	4,993	5,675	18,432	14,348
August	4,798	5,621	19,108	15,798
September	6,012	5,654	17,806	14,890
October	6,181	5,859	22,420	17,233

November	5,680	5,435	20,227	16,256
2019				
July*	5,456	5,669	21,278	17,837
August	5,208	5,645	22,223	18,491
September	6,875	6,366	24,337	19,266
October**	7,104	6,765	25,749	19,333
November	6,864	6,680	26,360	21,418

*Start of M14 Select Bus Service

**Implementation of the 14th Street Truck and Transit Priority Lanes

"We applaud the MTA for starting its bus electrification process," **said Julie Tighe, President of the New York League of Conservation Voters.**

"Transportation is the No. 1 source of greenhouse gas emissions and today's deployment combines three great ways to act on climate and cut air pollution: mass transit, zero emission vehicles and the 14th Street busway. We are excited that the MTA has committed to purchasing 500 electric buses as part of its historic capital plan and its Fast Forward plan to fully electrify buses by 2040. We look forward to seeing electric buses deployed throughout the city, especially in neighborhoods that have historically borne a disproportionate burden of air pollution."

"While Washington is stuck in reverse on climate, New York is driving forward with clean and practical electric buses," **said Andy Darrell, New York Regional Director at Environmental Defense Fund.** "With a quarter of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions coming from transportation, zero-emissions buses are the kind of solution that the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's capital plan and congestion pricing will help bring to every city neighborhood – one that will reduce climate pollution, make the air cleaner in our neighborhoods and improve the lives of all New Yorkers."

"The transition to zero emission streets is happening now, and it's very exciting," **said Lauren Bailey, Director of Climate Policy for Tri-State Transportation Campaign.** "The MTA's commitment to electrify their fleet by 2040 means riders and residents will benefit from cleaner air and better service. The 14th Street busway is already a symbol of best practices for bus service, and the results are clear: bus speeds are up by 38 percent and ridership is up by 37 percent. By adding electric buses, the MTA has created the future of transit in New York City. It's time for the rest of the state's public transit agencies to follow suit. As members of the Electrify New York coalition, we look forward to electric buses becoming the norm not only on city streets but throughout New York State and the tri-state region."

The MTA removes 17 million metric tons of carbon emissions from the air per year by providing public transit services as an alternative to personal vehicle use, and an all-electric bus fleet would further reduce New Yorkers' carbon footprint. All-electric propulsion technology also results in quieter operations in addition to the benefits of zero tail-pipe emissions, which make it ideal for operating vehicles in densely populated areas such as New York City. All-electric buses use an electric motor powered by a battery pack, and its propulsion systems recapture energy normally wasted in braking. Articulated buses, which are higher-capacity 60-foot-long buses used on Select Bus Service as well as on higher ridership routes, are ideal for electrification when used in densely populated urban areas where carbon emissions and traffic noise are public concerns.

MTA New York City Transit's Fast Forward plan to modernize the subway and bus networks builds upon Transit's existing efforts to improve environmental sustainability and resiliency by proposing to add more electric buses to the fleet across the entire city. NYC Transit recently issued a Request for Proposals for a base order of 45 standard electric buses that will be put into service in all five boroughs upon delivery beginning April 2021 through the end of 2021.

Other bus service initiatives to improve service and speed up rides include redesigning every borough's bus route network, implementing automated bus lane enforcement on fleet vehicles and streets, working with the New York City Department of Transportation to prioritize transit, and collaborating with NYPD to enforce bus lanes.