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SUFFOLK TRANSIT AWARDED \$565,000 GRANT TO PURCHASE ELECTRIC BUSES

SUFFOLK, VA (August, 15, 2022) Suffolk Transit is pleased to announce it received a \$565,000 grant from the Department of Transportation's *Fiscal Year 2022 Low or No Emission Vehicle Program*. The grant will be used to purchase two electric buses and two charging stations.

Maria Ptakowski, Transit Manager says, "We are thrilled to get this competitive grant and to start introducing electric buses into the fleet. This is a great opportunity for us to learn the capabilities of these greener vehicles and significantly reduce our fuel and maintenance costs."

The two electric buses will seat 19 passengers, have space for two wheelchair passengers and will be fitted with bike racks. The bus can travel 125 miles between charges with a charging time of approximately 2 hours. Suffolk Transit plans to alternate the two buses so that as one is charging the other is in service, therefore there will be no interruptions to service. It is expected the fuel and maintenance costs will be reduced by 83% compared with the standard buses.

Suffolk was one of only two transit systems in the state to receive a grant. U.S. Senators Mark R. Warner and Tim Kaine announced the grant. "Electric and natural gas vehicles offer a clean and affordable alternative to traditional fuel vehicles," the

senators said. “We are glad to see Virginia receive this funding to support the adoption of more energy efficient vehicles and the needed infrastructure to continue our transition to a transportation system with a significantly lower impact on the environment.”

For more information please contact Maria Ptakowski, Transit Manager (757) 514-7641 or email mptakowski@suffolkva.us

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