

Zero-Emission Fleet Transition Plan

City of Decatur

Decatur Public Transit System

2022-2040



1. Executive Summary

The City of Decatur Public Transit System is in the process of converting our fossil fuel fleet to battery-electric buses with a complete adoption timeline of 2035. Currently, 2 of our 23 fixed-route buses are battery-powered hybrid buses. Decatur Transit has deployed the hybrid buses on our core central downtown routes. Our current fossil fuel diesel fleet is within its useful life so the City will use diligent planning to replace these with battery-powered electric buses as time allows.

Decatur Public Transit System is a division within the City of Decatur that provides public transit services. Our service includes 17 fixed routes that operate six days a week from 5:30 AM to 7:15 PM. Service also includes on-demand paratransit and a downtown hybrid trolley route on a pulse system. In addition to these services, Decatur Transit also has partnerships with Decatur Public School District to provide unlimited rides for all students of the DPS 61 High Schools as well as Richland Community College Students. Decatur Transit serves as a designated recipient for FTA funding within the Decatur Urbanized Area Transportation Study Metropolitan Planning Organization.

City of Decatur Census Quick Facts

- Square Miles: 42.22
- Population per square mile: 1,802.8
- Population of Urbanized Area: 70,522
- Use public transit: 2%
- Drive to work: 97%
- Bike to work: 1%
- Median Age: 36
- Median Household Income: \$42,701
- Population Below Poverty: 24%

Citation: <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/dashboard/decaturcityillinois/LFE305220>

2. Introduction

On April 22, 2021, President Biden announced an ambitious goal: for the United States to achieve a 50-52 percent reduction from 2005 levels in economy-wide net greenhouse gas (GHG) pollution in 2030. In response, the FTA launched the Sustainable Transit for a Healthy Planet challenge to encourage transit agencies to build on progress already made and to further reduce GHG emissions from public transportation to support the President's GHG reduction goal.

Transportation is a major source of GHG emissions in the United States, accounting for 29 percent of 2019 GHG emissions (EPA's U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990-2019). Public transportation plays an important role in reducing a community's transportation GHG emissions through transportation and land use efficiencies.

The City of Decatur has committed to the Federal Transit Administration's Sustainable Transit for a Healthy Planet Challenge to take actions and make investments to cut GHG emissions.

This document will serve as a long-range planning tool for future transit investments.

3. Agency Overview

Decatur Public Transit System is a division within the City of Decatur that provides public transit services. The Decatur Public Transit System (DPTS) operates 16 bus routes and a downtown hybrid trolley route on a pulse system with buses departing the downtown Transit Center at 15 and 45 minutes past each hour.

Hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 5:30 A.M. to 7:15 P.M. and on Saturday from 6:15 A.M. to 7:15 P.M. No service is provided on Sunday or on major holidays, which include: Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Years Day. In addition to these services, Decatur Transit also has partnerships with Decatur Public School District to provide 100 school trips for students per month. Decatur Transit serves as a designated recipient for FTA funding within the Decatur Urbanized Area Transportation Study Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Decatur Public Transit System
 555 S. Wood Street
 Decatur, GA 30033
 In Spanish at (478) 404-3300 y
 solicitar una versión en español.

Bus Fares, Passes, Etc....
ELIJA UN PASAJE (Choose the fare that's right for you)
 Youth Adult Fare: \$1.00
 Youth Child Fare: \$0.50
 Disabled Passenger: \$2.00
 Decatur Public Transit System Card: \$2.00
 Senior Citizen: \$1.00
 Transfer: \$0.50

SATURDAY PASS
 Saturday Adult Fare: \$1.00
 Saturday Youth Fare: \$0.50

PUNCH CARD and MONTHLY PASS
 Decatur Public Transit System Card: \$2.00
 Decatur Public Transit System Monthly Pass: \$20.00
 Decatur Public Transit System Senior Citizen Monthly Pass: \$10.00

Operation Uplift
 DPTS is pleased to announce that it has received a grant from the Georgia Department of Transportation to purchase new buses. These services are available at the same times as the system is in operation: Monday - Friday 5:30am - 7:15pm, Saturday 6:15am - 7:15pm.

Downtown Decatur Trolley
 Monday through Friday from 7:00am to 8:15pm and Saturday from 8:00am to 8:15pm. The trolley is scheduled to be at the Transit Center 222 S. William St. at the hour, 15 minutes past, and at 30 minutes past the hour, every 15 minutes starting at 7:00am weekdays and at 8:00am every Saturday. The last run of the day will arrive at 8:00pm, Monday through Friday.

Rules and Regulations:
 NO DRINKING, NO SMOKING, NO LOITERING, NO PRIORITY, NO HOBBLES, NO LOOSE ITEMS, NO SOLICITATION, NO PREGNANT WOMEN, NO PETS.

4. Current & Future Fleet

The City of Decatur’s current fleet is comprised of twenty-three (23) diesel Gilligs, two (2) hybrid Gilligs, and seven (7) gas paratransit vehicles. We have fourteen (14) 2019 Diesel Gilligs, four (4) 2020 Diesel Gilligs, and two (2) Hybrid Gillig trolleys.

In 2021 we were awarded State of Illinois Rebuild Round II funds to replace four (4) of our older Diesel Gilligs with four (4) additional Hybrid Gilligs. These Gilligs will be replaced in 2023.

We plan to replace our diesel fixed-route Gilligs to Hybrid and Electric, four (4) at a time, starting in 2025, and repeating every two (2) years. Below is our proposed replacement schedule:

Replacement	# of Buses	Current Diesel Buses	Replaced with:	Funding Source
2023	4	9914,9019,9020,9022	Hybrid E-Gen Flex	Rebuild Round II & FY22Low-No
2025	4	9021,2001,2002,2003	Hybrid E-Gen Flex	Competitive
2027	4	2004,2005,2006,2007	Hybrid E-Gen Flex	Competitive
2029	4	2008,2009,2010,2011	Electric	Competitive
2031	4	2012,2013,2014,2015	Electric	Competitive
2033	4	2016,2017,2018,2119,2120	Electric	Competitive
2035	4	Cycle Restarts....		

We have seven (7) gas paratransit vehicles. In FY2023 we were awarded four (4) Ford E-Transits in a joint Low or No Emissions application with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). As of 2024, we have not yet received these vehicles. In 2024, we purchased two (2) gas Ford Transit vehicles to keep up with demand as we have had critical failures in our paratransit fleet.

Due to supply chain issues and critical failures within our paratransit fleet, we have replaced (2) vehicles with gas engines. However, we downsized from medium duty cutaways to light duty passenger vans to ensure that we are still being mindful of our ghg emissions.

We plan to replace our paratransit fleet two (2) at a time every two (2) years with all electric replacements. Below is our proposed replacement schedule:

Replacement	# of Buses	Current Gas Paratransit	Replaced with:	Funding Source
2023	4	1013,1014,1016,1017	Electric	FY23 Low-No Emission
2024	2	1024, 1025	Gas	FTA Section 5307
2026	2	1026, 1027	Hybrid	Competitive
2028	2	1013, 1014	Electric	Competitive
2030	2	1016, 1017	Electric	Competitive
2032	2	1024, 1025	Electric	Competitive
2034	2	Cycle Restarts...		

We will also replace our utility and supervisor vehicles on a similar rotation schedule to replace our gas vehicles with electric. We have been awarded the replacement of one (1) utility truck in State of IL Rebuild Round I. We have applied to have three (3) Supervisor vans replaced in the State of IL CVP grant. See below for our non-revenue vehicle replacement schedule:

Replacement	# of vehicles	Current Gas Vehicles	Replaced with:	Funding Source
2023	1	1011	Hybrid	Rebuild Round I
2024	3	1007, 1019, 1020	Hybrid	Rebuild Round III
2025	2	1006, 1008	Electric	Competitive
2027	2	1015, 1023	Electric	Competitive
2030	2	1028	Electric	Competitive
2032	2	Cycle Restarts...	Electric	Competitive

5. Future Resources

As seen in the replacement schedules, our funding is grant based. Our FY22 and FY23 replacements will be secured with grant funds that A. have been awarded or B. are in the process of being awarded. Our future replacement schedule will be pursued with additional competitive funding.

For instance, we know there will be an Illinois Rebuild Round III Grant that will be open for application in FY24. We will apply to this grant in order to assist with our procurement of electric vehicles.

See below for our current and future funding projections for our zero-fleet emission plan:

Replacement	# of Buses	Current Diesel Buses	Replaced with:	Funding Source
2023	4	9914,9019,9020,9022	Hybrid	Rebuild Round II
2025	4	9021,2001,2002,2003	Electric	Competitive
2027	4	2004,2005,2006,2007	Electric	Competitive
2029	4	2008,2009,2010,2011	Electric	Competitive
2031	4	2012,2013,2014,2015	Electric	Competitive
2033	4	2016,2017,2018,2119,2120	Electric	Competitive
2035	4	Cycle Restarts...		
Replacement	# of Buses	Current Gas Paratransit	Replaced with:	Funding Source
2022	4	1013,1014,1016,1017	Gas	Section 5307
2024	2	1024, 1025, 1026, 1027	?	IL CVP
2026	2	1013, 1014	Electric	Competitive
2028	2	1016, 1017	Electric	Competitive
2030	2	1024, 1025	Electric	Competitive
2032	2	1026, 1027	Electric	Competitive
2034	2	Cycle Restarts...		
Replacement	# of vehicles	Current Gas Vehicles	Replaced with:	Funding Source
2023	1	1011	Hybrid	Rebuild Round I
2024	3	1007, 1019, 1020	?	IL CVP
2025	2	1006, 1008	Electric	Competitive
2027	2	1015, 1023	Electric	Competitive
2030	2	1028	Electric	Competitive
2032	2	Cycle Restarts...	Electric	Competitive

6. Legislative Impacts

The current legislation and policies that have been published since 2021 and that will be forthcoming have been supportive of our endeavors to transition to a zero-emission fleet. We believe the current legislation in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill has been a catalyst in the acceptance and acceleration of alternative-fuel vehicles in public transportation.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill has allocated funding to Public Transit Systems to assist with zero-emission fleet transition plans. We have been educating ourselves and our staff on the legislation.

The City of Decatur has made strides in years past to become more environmentally aware. Such projects have included: LED light conversion and partnering with alternative energy suppliers to bring solar-farms to our residents. The City of Decatur has also been working on securing grant funding to provide city-wide electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

7. Facilities & Technology

The City of Decatur currently owns these facilities:

DPTS Bus Barn	Bus storage facility	100 Industry Court
DPTS Administration Building	Admin. And Maintenance Facility	555 E. Wood
Senator Severns Transit Center	Multi-Modal transfer center	353 E. William
New DPTS Buildings		333 E. Wood

The City of Decatur has undertaken building a new campus for their Public Transit System, Department of Works, and Facilities Maintenance. The goal of the project is to provide a 50-year campus that will grow with the city in their objective to increase public transportation for the city of Decatur. They have a goal for providing close to 95% of facility and electric bus energy requirements with solar energy and electrifying 50% of the transit fleet, while moving the other 50% of the fleet to non-carbon sources. The City has also begun the process of certifying the Admin/Maintenance building as a LEED project, with a goal of Silver, to be a leader and example for further green initiatives in the surrounding community. To accomplish said goals, the City of Decatur did purchase an adjacent property, a defunct tire manufacturing facility that was adjacent to the bus barn Bus Barn.

The City of Decatur recognizes our facilities do not have the electrical infrastructure necessary to support our fleet transition plan. We have secured some funding to assist with incorporating in electrical infrastructure. We have been awarded IDOT Rebuild II and Rebuild III grants to go towards these campus projects as well as a Low-No Emission Grant.

As we mentioned before, the City is also working on grants to secure electric vehicle charging city-wide. This initiative will bring equity to the City by allowing residents the choice of alternative fuel vehicles.

8. Alternative Fuel Infrastructure

The City of Decatur is the host community to one of Ameren Illinois largest distribution yards. Ameren is one of the top 10 employers in Decatur and they remain highly involved within the community.

The City of Decatur has a close working relationship with Ameren Illinois and Twin Supplies (an Ameren Trade Ally) to provide city-wide utility light LED conversions. Ameren and the City are also working on additional plans that include a behind the meter solar install project for City facilities.

As we continue to incorporate additional alternative fuel infrastructure like EV and Solar, we will leverage our relationship with Ameren.

9. Workforce Training

The City of Decatur Transit System has an operations contract with MV Transportation. MV Transportation is the leading provider of paratransit services and the largest privately-owned passenger transportation contracting firm in the United States. They currently partner with over 200 city and county government transit agencies across 30 states and into Canada with a team of more than 20,000 transit professionals.

We have leveraged our relationship with MV to assist with our Zero-Emissions Fleet Transition Plan and in response they have provided us with innovative training and planning options.



Our driver's will be provided with ongoing support and training to learn how to operate alternative fuel vehicles to the highest efficiency. Our maintenance and mechanics teams will be trained and have access to state of the art HoloLens tools for working on alternative fuel vehicles. Our staff will have ongoing support and trainings in regards to new technology, safety, and efficiency.

Document Control History

Version	Document Title	Date
1	Zero-Emissions Fleet Transition Plan	4/13/2022
2	Amended Zero-Emission Fleet Transition Plan	4/8/2024

Authority Acceptance

Recipient Name	Title	Signature
Scot Wrighton	City Manager	