

Clallam Transit System

Clallam Transit System (CTS), serving Clallam County, at this time has nine heavy-duty coaches that have reached their useful life and are soon to exceed that benchmark. These vehicles are in need of replacement and as time progresses more vehicles can be added to that list. All of these vehicles are pre-2010 emission standards.

CTS is continually seeking funding and has committed matching funds as part of our budget if and when we are successful in securing capital funding assistance. Even if we were fortunate enough to receive funds today, it would be typically over 18 months before any new bus would be delivered for service.

As there currently seems to be a significant interest in funding all electric vehicles, this venture potentially could counter the attempt to reduce overall emissions, raise operating costs, and reduce reliability of public transit statewide. Example; \$50 million dollars could procure 100 latest emission, clean diesel buses and remove that same amount of older pre-2010 and even pre-2006 emission buses from service. That same amount of investment, including expensive new infrastructure to support electric buses, would reduce that number to below 50 vehicles. This would increase or keep a greater amount of older, higher emission buses that many agencies would be forced to keep in service. Without replacement funding for new lower emission buses, agencies may also choose to refurbish older equipment or even purchase older equipment that do not come close to what is offered in lower emission diesel buses today.

As transit in general already reduces emissions and congestion by parking multiple vehicles each day, I feel it is so important to bring as many as possible of the systems statewide up to current emission standards with the intent to sustain reliability and efficiency. Electric vehicles certainly have a value and CTS does plan to introduce electric buses into our fleet in the future, but at a slow or conservative pace.

I thank you for this opportunity to make comment and I certainly hope we can consider taking advantage of this available funding to give Washington's transit systems a much needed step forward and at the same time satisfy a broader approach to reducing emissions statewide.