

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 16, 2020

ROCKFORD MASS TRANSIT RECEIVES 6.85 MILLION IN FUNDING FOR CAPITAL

The Rockford Mass Transit District recently learned that \$6.85 million has been apportioned to the District by the State of Illinois thru the Rebuild Illinois Capital Program Grant. This grant funding will be used to purchase (5) hybrid electric buses, (3) battery electric buses and the charging infrastructure to support these vehicles.

These (8) vehicles funded by the grant, in addition to the (5) hybrid electric buses acquired in late 2019 and the (5) hybrids RMTD will receive by the end of 2020 will enable RMTD to complete the replacement of the oldest vehicles in its fleet that have exceeded their useful life. The 13 year-old vehicles being replaced were purchased in 2007 and have accumulated on average over 403,000 miles per vehicle. The new vehicles will insure the RMTD fleet is efficient as well as environmentally friendly.

RMTD adopted a sustainability policy in 2017. Since that time the District has been moving toward enhancing the quality of life in our community, through environmentally sustainable practices whenever financially feasible. These includes, but are not limited to the adoption of alternative fuel technology vehicles to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to increase energy efficiencies with our fleet, our facilities, our operations and our staff. This grant will enable RMTD to take a significant step toward achieving this goal.

As part of RMTD's comprehensive mobility study, investing in clean-fueled vehicles was also identified by the community as something RMTD should continue to work toward. The current Gillig hybrid electric vehicles purchased in 2019 and introduced to our community in early 2020 provide up to a 25% reduction in fuel consumption and close to a 90% overall reduction in emissions from the diesel buses in the fleet.

“This investment is yet another step toward improving the air quality and overall quality of life in our community. RMTD is proud to be a part of this effort and would like to thank our local State leaders for all of their efforts in bringing these dollars to RMTD and our community through their support and passage of the Rebuild Illinois Capital Plan in 2019”, states RMTD Executive Director Michael Stubbe. Passed in 2019, Rebuild Illinois invests a total of \$33.2 billion over six years into the state's aging transportation system, creating jobs and promoting economic growth. Rebuild Illinois is not only the largest capital program in state history, but also the first one that touches all modes of transportation: roads and bridges, transit, waterways, freight and passenger rail, aviation, and bicycle and pedestrian accommodations.