Eight battery powered electric buses are joining the ranks of the RFTA fleet!

These buses are the result of a partnership involving RFTA and the City of Aspen with help in funding from the Federal Transit Administration, Colorado Department of Transportation, and the Elected Officials Transportation Committee.

In Partnership With:

Innovative Partnership
RFTA and the City of Aspen were awarded the 2019 Colorado Association of Transit Agencies Transit Team of the Year Award in recognition of the incredible team effort required to secure funding and community support for this project!

Emerging Technology
There are currently only 300 Battery Electric Buses in service in the U.S. and RFTA is adding eight!

Air Quality & Quiet Environment
The buses are more energy efficient and have zero-emissions at the tail pipe! They are significantly quieter and will be ideal for in-town routes.

The eight buses are New Flyer’s Xcelsior CHARGE™, they are zero emissions at the tail pipe, lower in operating costs, and have multiple charging systems available.

RFTA and Holy Cross Electric have worked to install sufficient bus charging infrastructure, establish a cheaper utility rate for strategic time-of-day charging and assess renewable energy offset options.
WHY GO ELECTRIC?

**They’re quieter.**
Electric motors emit very little external noise, making for a greater rider experience. The amount of noise they make idling is generally quieter than the ambient noise surrounding them.

**They’re cleaner.**
These new battery-electric buses produce zero emissions at the tail-pipe, which means cleaner air and a more livable environment.

**They’re easier to maintain.**
A lot of work goes into keeping the RFTA bus fleet in top shape. These new battery-electric buses will be easier — and cheaper — to maintain. They have fewer moving parts than our current buses, which means fewer parts to maintain and fluids to replace.

The electrification of a portion of RFTA’s fleet is a goal of the [RFTA Board of Directors](https://rfta.com/2040roadmap) and a publicly supported initiative from [RFTA Destination 2040](https://rfta.com/2040roadmap).

FEATURES

Our USA-built New Flyer Xcelsior CHARGE™ buses differ from the buses you’re likely used to. Here are the features they have… and a few things they’re missing:

- **Regenerative Braking:** While decelerating, the bus recharges its batteries, reducing energy consumption and extending the range.
- **Batteries:** These buses are powered by on-board batteries and are recharged by four depot charging stations at the Aspen Maintenance Facility.
- **Range:** The buses will be charged overnight and the daily range varies greatly based on factors such as climate, grades and weight. We will have a more defined range after our testing phase!
- **Capacity:** The buses have 38 passenger seats with seatbelts. While moving they are capable of carrying 47 total passengers in the form of 38 seated and 9 standing.
- **Transmission:** These buses have an electric drive system; no transmission required. This saves weight and simplifies maintenance.
- **Oil Changes:** Change the oil every 3,000 miles? Not with our electric buses. They'll never require an oil change.
- **Tailpipes:** With no emissions, there's no need for a tailpipe.
- **Fuel Costs:** It is estimated they will save up to $400,000 in fuel costs over 12 years.

TESTING

While these buses sound great, we need to make sure they live up to their promise before we roll them out.

To test the buses’ ability and range, we are testing them on shorter, flatter routes around the City of Aspen without passengers before moving to the longer, steeper roads.

RFTA is planning to place the buses into full service with the start of Fall Shoulder season on November 28th. Until then the buses are in a testing phase and you may see these buses with temporary wraps around Aspen. The public and passengers will not be able to board the buses during this testing phase.

FUNDING

Federal and State Grants funded roughly half of the costs, and the remaining funds were provided by RFTA and the City of Aspen.

**$9.2 Million Total Project Cost**
- Eight buses cost roughly $1 million each
- Four depot charging stations, infrastructure and installation at the AMF cost $1 million

**Funding**
- Federal and State funding: $4.2 million
- EOTC Funding: $500,000
- Remaining Funding: RFTA and City of Aspen

Stay informed at [rfta.com/2040roadmap](https://rfta.com/2040roadmap)