



Petition submitted by Fred Lampe on March 7, 2016:

Mayor and Council Members,

We petition the Chapel Hill Town Council to have Town Staff evaluate the usage and economic viability of electric buses to replace the 42 obsolete buses in the fleet before these obsolete buses are replaced by leasing new "clean diesel" buses.

As presented at the Feb. 10th Transportation and Connectivity Advisory Board meeting, the Chapel Hill Transit Department is planning shortly to order replacement "clean diesel" buses for around half of the 42 old buses that are well beyond replacement age and for which repair parts are frequently no longer available.

First, procurement of diesel buses is contrary to the Town's 2020 Comprehensive Plan. The plan specifically supports policies that "minimize fossil fuel dependency, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions and their contribution to global warming." Correspondingly, the Town has set a goal of reducing carbon emissions 60% below 2005 levels by 2050.

Second, there is no such thing as "clean diesel" -- this is marketing speak. There is only "less dirty diesel". Diesel engines are an obsolete, polluting technology well over 100 years old -- reference the VW debacle. Dozens of cities around the country are already investigating electric buses. Chapel Hill also needs to seriously investigate electric buses because we will have to live with this \$5-\$10 million decision for the next 10-12 years at least.

Third, electric buses have far fewer moving parts that are subject to wear and resulting repair. And, electricity to power the buses can be completely "green" and free of ongoing fuel costs once the infrastructure is in place, e.g. providing electricity from solar cells on top of the Town Operations Center backed up with battery storage for those cloudy days and nights.

Finally, a number of cities around the country are already running tests with electric buses. Lancaster, CA has become the first city in the United States to have a 100% electric transit fleet. Over the next 12 months they will receive delivery of 29 electric buses and have ordered a total of 85 from BYD Motors of Los Angeles.

See details here:

<http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20160211005368/en/Antelope-Valley-Transit-Authority-Nation's-100-Percent>

Please request staff to at least analyze the total cost of ownership over the leasing period of the opportunity to lead by using electric buses instead of following with 100 year old technology. And, please make the complete analysis available to Chapel Hill residents.

Thanks much,

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