



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OMNIBUS SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

## NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2018

RUN 06/2018

Welcome to another issue of The Green Pennant Special, the official publication of The Omnibus Society of America.

Through this publication we hope to keep our readers informed of events happening in the transit industry in Chicago and other cities in the United States.

Visit the Omnibus Society of America website at [osabus.org](http://osabus.org). At [osabus.org](http://osabus.org) we will be posting upcoming fan trips and meetings information, as well as membership information.

Please visit our site when you have a chance and give us your opinions and comments.

### • NOV/DEC MEETINGS

The November meeting of the Omnibus Society of America has been cancelled due to the opening of the Milwaukee streetcar opening happening on the same day.

The December meeting of the Omnibus Society of America will be held on December 7, 2018, in the Anderson Pavilion of Swedish Covenant Hospital. The meeting will start at 7:30 pm.

Our program for the evening will be a presentation by long-time member Ed Montajano on miscellaneous transit subjects.

### ELECTION NOTICE

The director's position of David Zuker up for election in December. Ballots will be mailed out the first or second week of November and must be received by the beginning of the December meeting to be counted.

### Proposed 2019 Budget Holds the Line on Fares, Preserves Service Levels

October 18, 2018 12:02 PM

*Spending plan continues historic modernization efforts, but lack of state funding for operations and improvements presents significant challenges*

The Chicago Transit Authority today proposed a balanced \$1.552 billion operating budget that maintains bus and train fares at their current levels, preserves bus and rail service, and continues investment to modernize the CTA and improve the customer experience.

"I am pleased to present a spending plan that not only maintains vital transit service in neighborhoods across the city, but also continues our investment to improve and modernize our service," said CTA President Dorval R. Carter, Jr. "And I'm especially pleased to be able to hold

the line on fares, despite the many financial pressures our agency is facing."

The CTA is also proposing a \$2.9 billion five-year capital budget for 2019-2023, continuing more than \$8 billion of historic transit investment completed, begun or announced by Mayor Rahm Emanuel since 2011. Those projects include rehabilitating rail stations and building new ones, modernizing rail and bus fleets, removing rail slow zones and adding new technologies—work that improves reliability, reduces commuting times, strengthens safety and security, and improves the overall commuting experience.

The 2019 budget includes more than \$20 million in cost savings and operational efficiencies. Among the cost-cutting steps are freezing hiring for 150 positions and locking in fuel and power costs at historically low prices. Since 2015 under President Carter, the CTA has achieved more than \$150 million in cost-cutting savings, operational efficiencies and additional non-farebox revenue.

But cost savings alone won't address the agency's financial challenges, Carter said. "The reduced state funding to support our day-to-day operations, combined with the lack of state funding for our capital projects, is unprecedented," Carter said, noting that the state last passed a capital funding bill—which supports investment in infrastructure—in 2009.

"Without adequate state funding, we simply cannot continue to provide the level of service we do, while holding the line on fares," Carter said.

Despite the funding challenges, CTA in 2019 will continue to pursue projects to modernize the system and improve service to customers. The agency will continue to make notable investments in its bus and rail system – including some of the largest projects in CTA history, such as the Red-Purple Modernization project, a \$2.1 billion investment to modernize and add capacity to the CTA's busiest rail corridor. CTA will also continue to enhance the overall customer experience by investing in public art at our rail stations.

Among the capital projects to continue or begin in 2019:

- Completion of the 95<sup>th</sup> Street Terminal on the Red Line
- Continuing work on Phase 1 of the Red and Purple Modernization Program, which includes rebuilding four Red Line stations, and track and signal systems, and constructing a rail bypass to meet current and future capacity needs

- Completion of the Garfield Green Gateway projects
- Your New Blue – Belmont & Jefferson Park rehabilitations
- King Drive Green Line
- Delivery of 20 new electric buses
- Delivery of the prototype 7000-series railcar, CTA's newest-generation railcar

Many of the capital projects will feature distinctive architecture and public art from notable Chicago and international artists, part of ongoing efforts to make public transportation more attractive and to highlight communities.

A public hearing will be held on November 7, 2018 at 6 p.m. at CTA headquarters, 567 W. Lake Street, second floor conference room, Chicago, Illinois, 60661.

## **Pace Executive Director T.J. Ross to retire**

October 10, 2018 6:00:00 PM  
Media Relations Office: (847) 228-4222

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, IL - Pace Executive Director Thomas (T.J.) Ross will retire at the end of November after 20 years of service to the agency. The announcement, made at today's Pace Board meeting, follows months of preparation with Pace Board of Directors and executives. Ross became Pace's Executive Director in July 1998. His transit career includes 19 years in the private sector and 25 years in the public sector during which he has held the positions of planner, engineer, maintenance director, general manager and executive director.

"One of T.J.'s greatest attributes has been his commitment to this agency and to the people of our region," said Pace Chairman Rick Kwasneski. "We are losing a wealth of knowledge and a dedicated public servant with his departure. I am sad to see him go, but I know that Pace will flourish with the solid foundation he leaves behind."

During his tenure, Ross's key accomplishments have included the agency's largest service expansion with the I-90 Market Expansion project in conjunction with the Illinois Tollway's Jane Addams Memorial Tollway SmartRoad project, the construction of the Harvey and Chicago Heights transportation centers, the implementation of Transit Signal Priority in South Cook County, the construction of a new Pace headquarters in Arlington Heights, the launch of Pace's website, the conversion of Pace's fixed route fleet to all accessible low-floor buses, the conversion of the South Division fleet and facility to Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), the installation of bike racks through Pace's Bike on Buses program, the launch of WebWatch (now BusTracker), the launch of dozens of new routes and hundreds of vanpools, the transfer of Chicago ADA Paratransit

Service from the CTA to Pace, and the introduction of Wi-Fi to most Pace buses.

Pace Deputy Executive Director Rocky Donahue has been named Interim Executive Director and will assume his new role when Ross departs on November 30.

## **Officials celebrate Pace's new clean diesel fleet**

October 17, 2018 10:00:00 AM  
Media Relations Office: (847) 228-4222

*Pace North Division's 52 new clean diesel buses replaced an aging fleet of 2002 and 2003 NABI buses*

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, IL - Local, county and state officials gathered last week to celebrate Pace's new fleet of clean diesel buses operating out of Pace North Division in Waukegan. Clean diesel is a type of diesel fuel that is highly refined to improve combustion efficiency and reduce harmful emissions. These vehicles use ultra-low sulfur diesel (ULSD) that immediately cuts soot emissions from diesel vehicles and equipment by 10 percent.



"Choosing clean diesel is a part of Pace's vision of being a good steward of our environment," said Pace Chairman Rick Kwasneski. "Cleaner diesel fuel, advanced engines and effective emissions control technology go hand in hand with Pace's commitment to reducing congestions and improving air quality."

Former Hainesville Mayor Linda Soto, who represents Lake County on Pace's Board of Directors, said, "These buses are very quiet, which contributes the quality of life for those who live and work near bus routes. And, there's no black diesel smoke. That contributes to quality of life for all of us."

Event attendees included representatives from Congressman Brad Schneider's office, acting Lake County Chairwoman Carol Calabrese, Lake County Board Member Ann Maine, Waukegan Mayor Sam Cunningham, and North Chicago Mayor Leon Rockingham Jr. Many offered kind words about Pace and their new fleet. State Representative Rita Mayfield, a former Pace North Division employee, also attended and said, "This is like coming home for me. I started working at Pace when I was 18 years old. Pace was

always so responsive to customers and it was a great place to work."

"The County Board recognizes that a good public transportation system is critical to supporting a high quality of life and our economic growth," said acting Lake County Chairwoman Carol Calabresa. "This new fleet shows us that Pace is investing in transportation here in Lake County in a way that reflects our commitment to caring for our environment."

"Our partnership with Pace has ensured that Waukegan residents have access to the public transit service they need," said Waukegan Mayor Sam Cunningham. "These new buses safeguard Lake County's air quality and help our region lead the way in conserving our environment."

Speaking just after a bus pulled out of the garage, North Chicago Mayor Leon Rockingham Jr. commented, "When that garage door opened and that bus rolled out, I looked, I think everybody did. You know what we didn't see? Black smoke that we would expect to see trailing from a diesel bus. And that's what this is all about, cleaner air for all of us. Making sure diesel emissions are reduced to help improve air quality and promote environmental progress."

## **Officials celebrate new Pace Route 754 Lewis University - CTA Blue Line Clinton Station**

October 2, 2018:00:00 PM  
Media Relations Office: (847) 228-4222

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, IL - Officials from Pace Bus, Lewis University, Romeoville, and Will County gathered yesterday to celebrate the launch of Pace's new service, Route 754 Lewis University - CTA Blue Line Clinton Station. Designed to accommodate Lewis University students and staff traveling from Chicago, a morning trip takes passengers from the CTA Blue Line Clinton Station to the school and a return trip brings them back in the mid-afternoon.

"Pace's vision for a safe, fast, and reliable public transportation network that provides affordable access to education and employment comes to life with services like Route 754," said Pace Chairman Rick Kwasneski. "Thanks to our partnership with Lewis University, we are able to launch this demonstration project, which takes advantage of vehicles already on the road on their way to and from other routes, at no cost to the students and employees who use it."

In February of 2018, Lewis University President Dr. David J. Livingston reached out to Pace to see if there was any way to get students and faculty from downtown Chicago to the University campus and back starting with the fall school year. "Our 410-acre campus is only 35 miles from Chicago, but transportation can be a challenge for some students," Dr. Livingston said. "Route 754 improves access to everything Lewis University has to offer, including our high-quality

academic programs, impressive academic facilities and dedicated employees."

Route 754 is an example of Pace's ongoing efforts to connect the residents of Northeastern Illinois with opportunities for employment and education. Students and teachers often have variable school schedules that can make using public transportation difficult. "This new service will make Lewis University more accessible to students who live in the city and make it easier for students on campus who want to explore the city," stated Mayor John Noak.

Other speakers offered kind words about Pace, Lewis University, and the new service, including Illinois State Senator Pat McGuire, Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) Board Member J.D. Ross, and Will County Executive Larry Walsh, who said, "Will County is one of the fastest growing counties in Illinois and we have a lot to offer. This new route improves access one of the County's most valued institutions, Lewis University, and I'm happy to celebrate its launch."

Route 754 provides one morning outbound trip and one afternoon inbound trip on weekdays only between the CTA Blue Line Clinton Station and Lewis University in Romeoville. This free fare route is operated using coach buses with free WiFi. This route is part of Pace's Bus on Shoulder program and uses the highway's inside shoulder to bypass congestion on I-55. Learn more at [PaceBus.com](http://PaceBus.com).

## **Nova Bus lands an important contract in Maryland**

October 18, 2018

**PLATTSBURGH (NY) OCTOBER 18, 2018** – Nova Bus, one of the largest bus manufacturers in North America, announced today that it has won the Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Transit Administration's (MDOT MTA) bid to supply city buses to the Baltimore region's public transport system. The five-year contract provides for the delivery of 70 buses per year for a total of 350 clean-diesel buses to be produced – 310 forty-foot Nova LFS and 40 sixty-foot LFS Artic articulated buses. These new vehicles will be built at the Nova Bus factory in Plattsburgh, NY. Delivery is scheduled to start in the fall of 2019 and will continue through the end of 2024.

"We are very happy to now count MDOT MTA among our many clients. This Nova Bus win occurred in a highly competitive environment confirming once again that Nova Bus is a major player in urban transportation in the United States. Our growth has been constant thanks to the quality of our buses and the support from our service department. We are especially proud to offer public transit passengers in the Baltimore region, buses assembled in the United States," said Ray Little, vice president of sales at Nova Bus.

As a new client, MDOT MTA will be able to count on the quality of Nova Bus buses to contribute to its goals of safety, efficiency and reliability. Nova Bus products are



robust and have the necessary features to handle the service, road and weather conditions of North American cities. Additionally, MDOT MTA will be able to count on the training and technical support that we offer to ensure its passengers enjoy a world-class transportation service.

## **Nova Bus announces first order from Michigan**

**PLATTSBURGH, NY, September 25, 2018** – Nova Bus is proud to announce it has been awarded a contract from Capital Area Transit Authority (CATA) in Lansing, Michigan. The contract calls for 23 clean diesel buses in the base order which includes nineteen 40' Nova Bus LFS and four 60' LFS Artic. It also includes 60 options over five years, for a maximum total amount of 41.2 million dollars.

"We are especially proud of this win at Lansing, a first for us in Michigan. We knew that CATA was looking for reliable and sustainable buses and it finally chose Nova Bus' products. This new partnership is just beginning and everyone at Nova Bus will be mobilized to meet the needs and demands of CATA and facilitate the introduction of these new buses into the Lansing fleet," said Martin Larose, President and General Manager of Nova Bus.

"CATA is delighted to be the first agency in the state of Michigan to introduce the Nova Bus brand to its fleet," added Bradley T. Funkhouser, CEO and Executive Director of CATA. "Not only is Nova Bus recognized as a reliable product, but each vehicle procured will save us hundreds of thousands of dollars, which is critically important to our stewardship of public funds."

## **Grand Rapids expands mobility with BRT buses from New Flyer**

October 15, 2018 | New Flyer

**St. Cloud, Minnesota, USA – October 15, 2018:** (TSX: NFI) New Flyer of America Inc. ("New Flyer"), the U.S. subsidiary of NFI Group Inc. ("NFI"), the largest transit bus and motor coach manufacturer and parts distributor in North America, today announced that the Interurban Transit Partnership ("ITP"), the organization responsible for operating the Public Transportation Authority of Grand Rapids Metro Area ("The Rapid"), has awarded New Flyer a new contract for 16 heavy-duty, sixty-foot Xcelsior® compressed natural gas transit buses (32 equivalent units or "EUs").

The 16 new articulated buses will support Grand Rapids' second new bus rapid transit ("BRT") line, with funding provided by the Federal Transit Administration and the Michigan Department of Transportation.

The Rapid has experienced a ridership increase of seven million since 2000 due to population growth, route development, and smart, transit-wide improvements including BRT. With BRT, wait times have decreased, area congestion has reduced, and economic development has increased.

"What the Laker Line will offer is larger buses that can carry more riders, making the route more efficient," said Michael Bulthuis, spokesman for The Rapid. "The articulated BRT buses can carry up to 50% more passengers than the forty-foot buses that currently operate on Route 50."

Recent initiatives by The Rapid will also add transit signal priority and electronic fare technology, which The Rapid is calling The Wave, to improve route and boarding times and create a smarter, more convenient transit system.

"New Flyer is proud to offer connected BRT solutions for Grand Rapids," said Wayne Joseph, President, New Flyer of America. "We commend The Rapid for leading the evolution in BRT transportation, and through this work, continue to champion smart mobility development that delivers seamless, sustainable, and efficient passenger experience, while increasing public transit ridership."

The Interurban Transit Partnership of the Grand Rapids Metro Area serves six cities with transit bus, paratransit, vanpool, and BRT. More than one third of the agency's buses will be converted to compressed natural gas by 2020 with goals to convert the entire fleet by 2027, creating a more environmentally friendly transportation network.

## **ARBOC secures first major order for up to forty Spirit of Equest medium-duty transit buses for Ozark Regional Transit**

September 27, 2018 | New Flyer

**Middlebury, Indiana, USA – September 27, 2018:** (TSX: NFI) ARBOC Specialty Vehicles, LLC ("ARBOC"), a U.S. subsidiary of NFI Group Inc. ("NFI"), the largest transit bus and motor coach manufacturer and parts distributor in North America, today announced that Ozark Regional Transit ("ORT") in Arkansas has awarded ARBOC with an order for up to 40 Spirit of Equest® ("Equest") low-floor, medium-duty transit buses. This award includes eight 29-foot buses and four 34-foot buses, plus options for an additional 28 buses. The buses will be procured through ARBOC's US dealer, Creative Bus Sales ("CBS").

"ARBOC is proud to provide fully accessible, low-floor buses to Northwest Arkansas and, we look forward to working with CBS and ORT as they improve mobility in this region," said Don Roberts, President, ARBOC. "We are proudly dedicated to leading the progression of equal access for everyone throughout North America. This award is our first order for the new Equest medium-duty bus model."

The low-floor Equest vehicles have "kneeling" capabilities, making the boarding process more efficient, while enhancing Ozark Regional Transit's 100 percent ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant fleet. The order will replace buses destroyed in a fire on

January 9, 2017, and will supplement existing ARBOC low-floor cutaway buses in the ORT fleet.

Roberts went on to say "ARBOC has been innovating accessible transit for North Americans since 2008. Nearly 70% of North American's low-floor body-on-chassis buses ("cutaways") are manufactured by ARBOC and with the launch of the Equess the future looks bright. Designed in America, sourced in America, and built in America."

"The Equess fits the characteristics of streets in the communities we serve," said Joel Gardner, Executive Director of Ozark Regional Transit. "Keys to providing fixed route services in some areas are based on the overall length, width and turning radius of the vehicles. The Equess meets those needs very well. ARBOC has proven itself to be an excellent provider of transit vehicles and, in this case, can provide us with the delivery timeline we needed."

"Creative Bus Sales is proud to support Ozark Regional Transit in upgrading its fleet," said Brent Roy, Regional Sales Manager, Creative Bus Sales. "We are thrilled to again provide ARBOC low-floor buses that meet ORT's objective to provide accessible transit to all, while navigating safely and efficiently in the Ozark region."

Ozark Regional Transit serves the two county area of northwest Arkansas, including the cities of Fayetteville, Springdale, Bentonville, and Rogers. ORT supports over 300,000 trips annually with 12 fixed routes throughout the region and intends to increase the number of fixed routes in the future.

## **Community Transit revitalizes and expands fleet with 44 buses from New Flyer**

September 25, 2018 | New Flyer

**St. Cloud, Minnesota, USA – September 25, 2018:** (TSX: NFI) New Flyer of America Inc. ("New Flyer"), the U.S. subsidiary of NFI Group Inc. ("NFI"), the largest transit bus and motor coach manufacturer in North America, today announced that Community Transit in Everett, Washington has exercised options for 26 heavy-duty, sixty-foot Xcelsior® clean-diesel transit buses (or 52 equivalent units or "EUs"). This order is in addition to options exercised by Community Transit in June 2017 for 18 heavy-duty, sixty-foot Xcelsior® clean-diesel transit buses (36 EUs) that are currently being delivered, for a total of 44 buses (88 EUs).

The 26 articulated buses, engineered for high capacity transit, will replace older articulated buses that have reached service lifespan and are a part of a \$20 million investment in asset management and vehicle replacement. The 18 articulated buses are part of a \$12 million investment to expand bus rapid transit ("BRT") and increase service in 2019.

"New Flyer is proud to support Community Transit as it pursues revitalized and expanded mobility in the community of Snohomish County, Washington," Wayne

Joseph, President, New Flyer of America. "We are committed to supporting fleet advancement and high-capacity BRT transit as a key element of multimodal transit, that will help reduce congestion and augment public transit success in growing urban areas."

Community Transit serves the public transit authority of Snohomish County, Washington (a Seattle metropolitan area) and delivers over 10 million passenger trips per year. New Flyer has delivered nearly 300 buses to Community Transit since 1992.

## **Utah launches zero-emission transit in Salt Lake City with buses from New Flyer**

September 23, 2018 | New Flyer

**St. Cloud, Minnesota, USA – September 23, 2018:** (TSX: NFI) New Flyer of America Inc. ("New Flyer"), the U.S. subsidiary of NFI Group Inc. ("NFI"), the largest transit bus and motor coach manufacturer and parts distributor in North America, today announced that the Utah Transit Authority ("UTA") has awarded New Flyer a contract for five forty-foot New Flyer Xcelsior CHARGE™ heavy-duty, battery-electric buses.

The award includes the zero-emission buses and supporting charging equipment, and was supported by Federal Transit Administration ("FTA") funds through the Low or No Emission ("Low-No") Vehicle Deployment Program. Partners include the University of Utah, CALSTART, Utah State University, Rocky Mountain Power, and the Utah Office of Energy Development. Rocky Mountain Power will provide technical support and management for daily charging demands, CALSTART will collect data, analyze, and report on vehicle performance, and the Utah Office of Energy Development will support promotion of more efficient, renewable energy infrastructure.

"New Flyer is proud to deliver safe, reliable, zero-emission transit to the community of Salt Lake City and the University of Utah," said Wayne Joseph, President, New Flyer of America. "We commend UTA as an industry leader in developing and providing mobility solutions for its communities, and through deploying our Xcelsior CHARGE buses, also improving transit sustainability while improving air quality and conserving natural resources."

The Xcelsior CHARGE™ buses will serve Salt Lake City and the University of Utah campus. Three will be deployed on a UTA route between downtown Salt Lake City and the university, while the other two buses will support the university's new transit shuttle using a dedicated transit and pedestrian lane.

"The Utah Transit Authority is looking forward to putting these five New Flyer battery-electric buses into service in our community," said Steve Meyer, Interim Executive Director of UTA. "Air quality is a major concern in our service area and a top priority for UTA. These zero-emission buses will aid UTA in its efforts to improve our

air quality throughout the year, and be a responsible steward of our precious natural resources."

The Utah Transit Authority is the provider of public transportation and mobility solutions in the Wasatch Front of Utah, including the metropolitan areas of Ogden, Park City, Provo, Salt Lake City, and Tooele. It provides over 45 million trips annually, and in 2014, UTA was named the American Public Transportation Association's Outstanding Public Transportation System.

## RTC expands high-capacity transit in Las Vegas Valley with 55 buses from New Flyer

September 4, 2018 | New Flyer

**St. Cloud, Minnesota, USA – September 4, 2018:** (TSX: NFI) New Flyer of America Inc. ("New Flyer"), the U.S. subsidiary of NFI Group Inc. ("NFI"), the largest transit bus and motor coach manufacturer and parts distributor in North America, today announced that the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada ("RTC") exercised options for two orders: one for 40 sixty-foot compressed natural gas ("CNG") and 15 forty-foot CNG Xcelsior® heavy-duty transit buses (for a total of 95 equivalent units or "EUs").

The buses represent executed options from New Flyer's contract with RTC which began in 2015. New Flyer has delivered 146 Xcelsior CNG buses to RTC since 2013, of which 81 were high-capacity, sixty-foot transit buses.

"New Flyer is proud to be an innovator in the heavy-duty transit bus industry, increasing efficiency and reducing greenhouse gases with versatile propulsion solutions," said Wayne Joseph, President of New Flyer of America. "We have a great relationship with the RTC and look forward to continuing that partnership with low-emission, high-capacity buses that improve transit mobility while eliminating emissions."

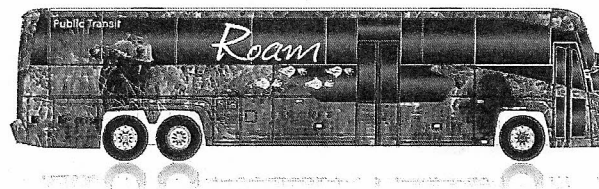
RTC is a regional entity overseeing public transportation, traffic management, transportation and funding for Southern Nevada, and delivered over 63 million boarding's in 2017 in the greater Las Vegas Valley.

## ALBERTA'S BOW VALLEY REGIONAL TRANSIT PLACES FIRST ORDER FOR THE ALL-NEW MCI D45 CRT LE

Revolutionary Commuter Coach Will Deliver Unprecedented Comfort and Accessibility Features to Residents and Tourists on Popular Distance Route Between the Town of Banff and Lake Louise

**DES PLAINES, ILLINOIS, AUGUST 23, 2018:** (TSX:NFI) Motor Coach Industries (MCI), a U.S. subsidiary of NFI Group Inc., ("NFI"), the largest transit bus and motor coach manufacturer and parts distributor in North America, announced today that Banff-based Bow Valley Regional Transit Services Commission ordered four MCI D45 CRT LE Commuter Coaches to

serve its Roam public transit system expansion between the scenic towns of Banff and Lake Louise in the Bow Valley of Alberta's Rockies.



The MCI D45 CRT LE is the first-ever Commuter Coach bus design with a curb-level automated ramp at mid-coach that directs passengers into a low-entry vestibule with seating configured for riders using mobility devices including next-generation motorized wheelchairs. The rest of the 54-passenger coach features upper-level forward facing seating, WiFi, and electrical outlets to serve every passenger on growing distance ridership routes.

The four new MCI coaches will serve Roam's longest-distance route — a 45-minute commute — connecting the town of Banff and Lake Louise.

"One of our operational conditions is that our fleet has to be accessible — many of our passengers require accessibility assistance," said Steve Nelson, Operations Manager of the Bow Valley Transit Commission, formed in 2011. "We are unique as a regional transit agency because we provide public transit service both outside of and within Canada's oldest national park. We want to make sure anyone and everyone can board easily and equally. We are very impressed with the model's unique vestibule design, and happy that MCI was successful with the RFP."

When designing the D45 CRT LE, MCI engaged Designworks, a BMW Group Company and people with disabilities advocacy groups, creating a modern coach with revolutionary accessibility to improve passenger boarding and lower dwell time.

On these four coaches, scheduled for April 2019 delivery, Roam Transit is adding optional bike racks, and considering ski/snowboard racks during the winter season. The order will bring Roam Transit's fleet to 24 buses. In a tribute to the area's natural beauty, each bus will be wrapped with images of Rocky Mountain wildlife taken by local and notable photographers.

"We couldn't be more pleased that Roam Transit, so highly committed to accessibility, has chosen the D45 CRT LE to serve its longer-distance route," said Ian Smart, MCI President. "We respect their foresight as well as their success in getting people on board public transportation."

Roam Transit, which the Commission began operating in 2012, serves more than a million tourists that visit the area annually, and has seen an increase of 50 percent in its local transit routes this year. They attribute the ridership rise to an increasing the frequency of buses on



local routes and additional weekend service. Roam currently operates six routes, two local service routes within the town of Banff, a local service route within the town of Canmore, and a regional service connecting the two communities. Two additional routes provide summer service from May to September to popular local attractions like the Cave and Basin National Historic Site, as well as the picturesque Lake Minnewanka.

## **SPECIAL DELIVERY: INTRODUCING THE MCI J-SERIES FAMILY IN 2019!**

### **MCI ADDS STATE-OF-THE-ART FEATURES TO ITS BEST-SELLING J4500 LUXURY, CAPACITY AND PARTS COMPATIBILITY TO ITS ALL-NEW 35-FOOT J3500**

**DES PLAINES, ILLINOIS, SEPTEMBER 18, 2018:**

(TSX:NFI) Motor Coach Industries (MCI), a U.S. subsidiary of NFI Group Inc., ("NFI"), the largest transit bus and motor coach manufacturer and parts distributor in North America, expands its 2019 model line up with a great new arrival – a compact new MCI J3500 coach to meet increasing demand for right sized comfort for smaller groups, niche customers and new markets, and introduces important advances on the 2019 best-selling MCI J4500 with all electric coming in 2020.



"With the launch of a 35-foot J to all-electric versions of our best-selling models, MCI's moves are based on feedback from our customers and requirements to meet their marketplace needs," said Ian Smart, MCI President. "Travel by motor coach is more relevant than ever. Our goal is to help capture new riders by offering a versatile coach product line with innovative features and long-term reliability."

Featuring all the styling and performance of the 45-foot MCI J4500, the new 2019 MCI J3500 comfortably seats up to 44 passengers with best in class interior, baggage capacity among all 35-foot vehicles and top maneuverability for congested city streets, airport terminals and other busy transportation settings.

As for its respected sibling, the 2019 MCI J4500 builds on its striking 2018 interior redesign with mechanical and

safety upgrades to match, including Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS) technology delivered by the optional next-generation Bendix Fusion.

Both J-Series models are built to delight owners and operators watching their maintenance budgets and maximizing uptime. A new e-Fan system boosts fuel efficiency delivering on lowest total cost of operation, with NFI Parts (new name of MCI Service Parts) parts support and near-zero learning curve for busy maintenance teams. Both models also come with the industry's top limited warranty of 30 months with unlimited miles.

#### **The 2019 J4500:**

MCI continues serviceability and reliability improvements, along with further enhancements to the award-winning interior and best-in-class interior space that offers industry leading legroom and comfort in a 60 seat passenger configuration launched in model year 2018. For 2019, the J4500 also features:

- A new swing-out cooling module e-Fan system improves coach reliability and fuel economy while drastically reducing the time required for service to after treatment sensors and all "hot side" engine components
- The optional next-generation BENDIX WINGMAN FUSION with radar and camera to detect and stop for stationary objects (SVB), including lane departure warning (LDW), following distance alerts (FDA), and traffic sign recognition (TRS) in addition to Adaptive Cruise Control with Braking (ACB) and Collision Mitigation (CMT)
- Several other model year 2019 improvements include enhancements to MCI's optional 360-degree camera system; added condition air supply vents to the driver's cockpit; a new sliding upper door for the wheelchair lift; and further adjustments to coach's back cabin interior to increase passenger comfort.

#### **The 2019 J3500:**

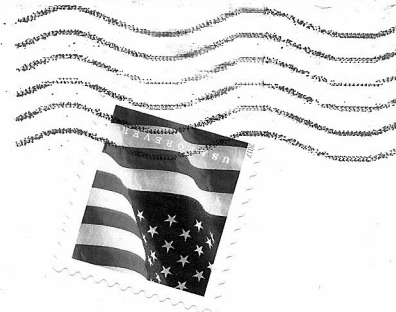
For MCI, the development of a 35-foot coach answers an important market need.

"The MCI J4500 built its leadership status as a luxury, high-capacity coach that remains the perfect choice for larger ridership in the tour, charter and shuttle industry," said Brent Maitland, MCI Vice President of Marketing and Product Planning. "But our operators told us they wanted the same luxury and functionality in a coach for smaller-sized groups that offered great maneuverability, a smooth ride and best-in-class payload capacity," he added. "We think the J3500 and J4500 pairing gives operators real market flexibility. The J3500 coach delivers a ride quality you simply can't find in a smaller, alternative vehicle. Its overall comfort and best-in-class baggage space can enable everything from ski trip excursions to private executive and employee transport."

Omnibus Society of America  
PO Box A3051  
Chicago IL 60690

S SUBURBAN IL 604

29 OCT 2018 PM 2 L



A summary of MCI's newest 35-foot coach advantages include:

- Semi-monocoque construction equal to the J4500 means longer vehicle life and also makes for a quieter, smoother ride over the life of the coach
- An interior experience to match the J4500 - best-in-class legroom for up to 44 passengers and the largest baggage bay and enclosed parcel rack space than the nearest competitor
- Interior options equal to the J4500, including an all-new optional rear window, interior RGB programmable lighting, and coordinated interior trim packages in Blues, Lounge and Tech
- With a turning radius of just under 33 feet the J3500 means top maneuverability – literally opening up new cities, roads and neighborhoods for expanded coach service

Both the J3500 and J4500 share coach systems technologies including electric, HVAC suspension, brakes, axles, frame and body components. Equipped with or without wheelchair lift and lavatory, the J3500 has a smaller, yet powerful 2017 EPA Cummins L9, 350 hp, 1150 lb-ft torque w/engine brake and Gen V Allison B500, 6-speed automatic with prognostics capability