

December 14, 2011

Salem-Keizer Transit Rolls Out First Hybrid Bus

Salem-Keizer Transit recently purchased a hybrid gas-electric bus. The 35 passenger bus will be used for the Chemeketa Area Regional Transportation System (CARTS). CARTS provides bus service to rural Marion and Polk Counties including Woodburn, the Santiam Canyon, Silverton, Dallas and Monmouth. The hybrid bus has a lift and two wheelchair stations and can accommodate up to two bicycles.

The expected MPG for the hybrid is 8-10 miles per gallon, which is a 35-40% increase over traditional diesel or gas powered buses. A comparable bus would get about 6-7 miles per gallon.



This previously owned bus has only been driven 13,361 miles. The bus was built in 2010 with a retail value of \$220,000. Salem-Keizer Transit was able to purchase the vehicle for only \$37,000. The bus was purchased using rural reserve funds.

The bus will be used to test the cost effectiveness of hybrid technology for future bus purchases. Salem-Keizer Transit anticipates that the hybrid will be out on the road by the end of December.

For information on CARTS routes and schedules visit www.cherriots.org or call 503-588-2877.

