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For Immediate Release

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## **Leahy Announces Addition of Six New Low Emission Buses to CCTA Fleet**

BURLINGTON (Monday, July 16) -- U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy visited the Chittenden County Transportation Authority (CCTA) headquarters Monday to announce the delivery of six new low emission local service buses, and to highlight the expansion of CCTA's facilities. The buses were purchased by CCTA using \$2 million in funds Leahy and former Sen. Jim Jeffords secured during the most recent version of the transportation reauthorization bill.

The new 40-foot buses, produced by Gillig Corporation, meet the 2007 EPA standard platform which sets significant environmental standards for diesel engines, including a 97 percent reduction in particulate emissions and a 75 percent reduction in carbon monoxide emissions – both contributing factors toward global warming.

In addition to the improved technology of the 2007 engines, the new Gillig buses will join the rest of CCTA's 55 buses in the use of ultra-low sulfur diesel in a B20 biodiesel blend. Biodiesel is a safe, clean-burning fuel source derived from domestically produced, renewable sources such as vegetable oils. It is a renewable and biodegradable fuel which further reduces emissions such as carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons. These elements combined dramatically reduce CCTA's overall emissions making the new buses the greenest public transit buses in Vermont.

During Leahy's announcement, CCTA also announced the ground breaking of a 9,000 square-foot bus storage facility addition. This expansion will allow CCTA to house a greater portion of its bus fleet, which will prolong vehicle life and reduce maintenance costs. Construction officially began in the spring and is scheduled for completion in the fall.

"Many Vermonters count on CCTA for a safe and economical way of getting around town," Leahy said. "Now they can sit comfortably knowing that the bus they are riding in is also the cleanest public transit bus in the state. Keeping our public transit system state of the art, dependable and in touch with Vermonters' priorities is critical to a successful transit program."

The Leahy-secured funds, combined with local, member community and state contributions, permit CCTA to make necessary upgrades to the bus fleet and to storage facilities. These upgrades improve CCTA's environmental impact and better protect these and other buses to ensure a longer life and improved customer experiences

"Senator Leahy has a long history of support for public transportation in Vermont. This support is critical to maintain and expand our services," said Chris Cole, General Manager of CCTA. "The new buses and improvements to our facility would not have happened without Senator Leahy's efforts and commitment to public transportation," Cole added.

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The six new local buses are yet another element of CCTA's ongoing efforts to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improve the quality of the environment in Chittenden County and Vermont. CCTA began using the B20 biodiesel blend in February 2007 and also employs various conservation efforts in its administrative offices and maintenance facility such as oil and antifreeze recycling.

"Our goal now is to replace the remaining buses that are already eligible for replacement," said Cole. "The fastest way for CCTA to further reduce emissions is to replace the older buses as soon as they are eligible. Based upon the dramatic emissions reductions, the CCTA board is committed to changing over the remaining eligible fleet as quickly as possible."

CCTA currently has 10 buses eligible for replacement.

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The Chittenden County Transportation Authority operates Chittenden County's public transit buses and provides over 2 million rides per year in the greater Burlington area. CCTA has a sixty bus fleet, which services Burlington, Essex, Shelburne, South Burlington, Williston, Winooski and a portion of Colchester.

The mission of CCTA is to promote and operate safe, convenient, accessible, innovative and sustainable public transportation services in the Chittenden County region that reduce congestion and pollution, encourage transit oriented development and enhance the quality of life for all.

For CCTA route and schedule information, please call (802) 864-CCTA or visit us at [www.cctaride.org](http://www.cctaride.org).

