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CHITTENDEN COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY SUSPENDS USE OF BIODIESEL TO CUT COSTS

February 25, 2011 – The Chittenden County Transportation Authority (CCTA) is anticipating future fuel costs exceeding the per gallon cost budgeted for fiscal year 2012. CCTA has budgeted \$3.25 a gallon for diesel fuel for FY12 and CCTA is currently paying \$3.29 a gallon for ultra low sulfur diesel fuel (ULSD). Therefore, CCTA will suspend the use of biodiesel, which will save the authority \$.11 a gallon.

CCTA General Manager Chris Cole said, “I am very concerned about going into FY12 with diesel budgeted at the cost we are paying for it now. This is why I recommended to the CCTA Board of Commissioners that we suspend the use of biodiesel that currently costs the authority an additional \$.11 a gallon over and above the cost of the ULSD. I would like to build up a little nest egg that allows us to weather the anticipated increase in fuel prices in the upcoming year without having to reduce service in the upcoming fiscal year. The Board’s approval of this recommendation demonstrates a proactive approach to addressing escalating fuel prices.”

ULSD fuel along with new engine and emission control system technologies have an important role in improving air quality and providing human health benefits by significantly reducing current emissions. ULSD fuel enables the use of cleaner technology diesel engines and vehicles, resulting in significantly improved air quality, particularly with particulate emissions where reductions greater than 90% can be achieved.

CCTA began using biodiesel in the Spring of 2007. Chapin Spencer, CCTA Board Chair said, “While we would prefer to continue to use biodiesel, CCTA is facing a tight budget for FY12 and it is fiscally prudent for the Board to make this change now in order to minimize potential service reductions in the future.”

The mission of CCTA is to 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.

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