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CHIEF MECHANICAL OFFICER

Driving Innovation Project Zero



Project Zero

In 2021, Pace adopted *Driving Innovation*, an ambitious strategic vision plan that commits the agency to operating a **zero emission bus fleet by 2040**.

This transition began in 2023 when Pace purchased an electric bus. Another 22 electric buses will arrive by the end of this year. Pace aims to convert its first garage, Waukegan's North Division, to fully electric operations by 2027.

This initial order will help Pace determine how to move forward at scale, building **hundreds of new vehicles**, converting **more than a dozen facilities**, redesigning routes when necessary and working with partners across our large region to upgrade equipment and install **community-based charging infrastructure** to recharge buses that are on the road all day.



Project Zero

- Pace's fleet transition plan is now complete. It includes a route analysis to assess charging requirements; an evaluation of current fleet capacity, proposed growth over time, and plans for fleet replacement; and a cost review. A related facility transition plan is now in progress.
- Pace has been a leader in new technology, deploying hybrid and CNG buses years ago. We are excited to take this next step!
- Pace is working on a mid-life rehab of Elgin's River Division which would operate as a fully electric fleet.
- Pace received federal Community Project Funding for seven electric vehicles (two fixed-route buses for North Division and five paratransit buses for River Division). This puts Pace ahead of schedule—but hundreds of additional vehicles must still be replaced.



Why Electric?

- Climate change. It will take all hands on deck to avoid catastrophic effects from climate change.
- Clean air. Pollution from gas-powered vehicles causes health and environmental problems.
- Long-term savings. While implementing new technology and infrastructure is costly up front, in the long-run, zero emission vehicles may save Pace operating funds as the market for equipment and energy evolves.
- Pace will continue to study emerging alternative fuels, such as hydrogen and renewable natural gas, and study how CNG buses might be run on hydrogen.



Why 2040?

Our goals align with state and federal timelines. This will give us just enough time

To:



Secure hundreds of millions in funding.



Replace over 700 buses.



Finalize fleet plan & facilities plan.



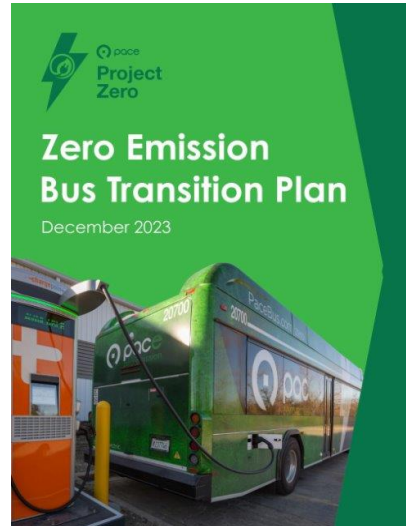
Ensure electric grid will accommodate vehicles.



Complete capital upgrades at garages.



Work through implementation issues.



Contract and Information

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To learn more, visit PaceBus.com/zero

[Pace ZEB Transition Plan January 27 2023.pdf \(pacebus.com\)](#)

