

Three New Gillig Buses Now in Lewiston-Auburn

PRESS RELEASE: May 23, 2011

The LA community saw a lot more purple this morning, as three 35' low-floor purple Citylink transit buses hit the streets for the first time! The heavy-duty 31-passenger Gillig buses were 100% funded by American Reinvestment Recovery Act Funds (ARRA). They are American made and were manufactured in Hayward, California, to include two wheelchair tie-down locations.



Lewiston Mayor Laurent F. Gilbert, Sr., stands with transit driver Jim Lee

Pat Christian, General Manager of Western Maine Transportation Services, Inc., said, ***“These are real heavy-duty transit coaches that will serve the communities well for the next 12 years.”***

The purchase of the buses, valued at \$371,406 each, was made possible by the Maine Department of Transportation ***“piggy backing”*** on an existing bid awarded to San Mateo, California. The State of Maine received 13 ARRA funded buses, with Lewiston-Auburn Transit, Bangor, Portland’s METRO, and South Portland benefiting.

“MaineDOT needs to be given a lot of credit for making this purchase happen. Their quick work in finding an open bid that met the ARRA funding requirements, the needs of the transit operators, and the state’s procurement requirements took a lot of manpower,” stated Marsha Bennett, Lewiston-Auburn Transit Coordinator.

The buses were delivered on time, 18 months from the issuance of the corresponding purchase order. Gillig representatives have been in Maine performing post-delivery inspections and providing maintenance training for all receiving entities.

In addition, Western Maine Transportation Services, Inc.—Lewiston-Auburn Transit’s contracted operator—has been getting the buses ready for service. Fare boxes and surveillance camera systems were installed, along with destination sign programming.

At today’s event, drivers were all smiles!