

Omnitrans Bus Yard

Background

Omnitrans¹ is a public transit agency established in 1976 that serves the San Bernardino Valley. Omnitrans operates local and express bus routes, including bus transit (sbx), shuttle (OmniGo), and a wheelchair-accessible service for people with disabilities (Access).² Omnitrans carries approximately 16 million passengers each year throughout its 480 square mile service area, covering 15 cities and portions of the unincorporated areas of San Bernardino County, and employs almost 700 people. An Omnitrans bus yard is located at 1700 W. 5th Street, San Bernardino (Figure 5-1). The bus yard is used to park, service and refuel over 200 buses on a daily basis. The buses operate on pipeline compressed natural gas (CNG). CNG is odorless, however, Mercaptan is added to CNG as a leak-detection safety feature. People can smell Mercaptan, which contains sulfur, at very low levels.



Figure 5-1: Location of Omnitrans Bus Yard

Community Air Quality Priority – Odors and Zero-Emission Buses

Odors detected by residents near the Omnitrans bus yard are a priority for the CSC. The CSC recommends that the South Coast AQMD work with Omnitrans to determine if the bus yard is a source of odor emissions detected by the community. Additionally, the CSC prioritized zero-

¹ Omnitrans, About Omnitrans, May 2019, www.Omnitrans.org/about, Accessed May 23, 2019.

² Omnitrans, http://www.Omnitrans.org/schedules/pdf/system-map/Omnitrans_System_Map_0519.pdf, Accessed May 23, 2019.

emission buses (e.g. electric buses) to improve the air quality in the San Bernardino and Muscoy community.

Ongoing Efforts

CARB’s Innovative Clean Transit Regulation³ is a statewide effort to transition public transit agencies to 100% zero-emission bus fleets by 2040.⁴ To address this, Omnitrans expects to replace the total fleet with zero-emission buses at the following rate: 25% (by 2025), 50% (by 2028), and 100% (by 2040). Recent efforts by Omnitrans to transition to cleaner buses even earlier includes applying for grant funding through the Low or No Emission Grant Program.⁵ As a collaborative effort, the South Coast AQMD provided a letter of support for Omnitrans’s proposal.

Omnitrans is subject to South Coast AQMD Rule 1192 - Clean On-Road Transit Buses. Rule 1192 requires public transit fleets with 15 or more transit vehicles or urban buses to acquire alternative fuel heavy-duty vehicles when buying or leasing public transit vehicles.⁶ Also, equipment, such as gasoline dispensing devices, emergency engines and paint spray booths that are operated at the bus yard are subject to certain South Coast AQMD rules (e.g., Rule 461 – Gasoline Transfer and Dispensing). South Coast AQMD enforcement staff conducts unannounced inspections at the facility to determine compliance with these rules.

Identifying Opportunities for Action

The CSC identified actions to reduce emissions from Omnitrans operations. The details of these actions are described below.

Action 1: Conduct Air Monitoring to Identify the Composition and Level of Emissions Near the Omnitrans Bus Yard	
Course of Action:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air monitoring near the Omnitrans Bus Yard • Based on emissions information collected (i.e., from air monitoring, site visits, facility inspections, etc.) identify potential sources of emissions 	
Strategies:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air Monitoring 	

³ California Air Resources Board, Innovative Clean Transit Regulation, March 13, 2019, <https://arb.ca.gov/msprog/ict/ict.htm>, Accessed June 9, 2019.

⁴ Next-Generation Transportation (NGT) News, California Switching to Zero-Emission Transit Buses by 2040, December 17, 2018, <https://ngtnews.com/california-switching-to-zero-emission-transit-buses-by-2040>, Accessed June 9, 2019.

⁵ Federal Transit Administration, Low or No Emission (Low-No) Program (FY 2019) Notice of Funding, <https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/applying/notices-funding/low-or-no-emission-low-no-program-fy-2019-notice-funding>, Accessed May 24, 2019.

⁶ South Coast AQMD, Rule 1192 – Clean On-Road Transit Bus, June 2000, <https://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/rule-book/reg-xi/rule-1192.pdf>, Accessed May 23, 2019.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration • Public information and outreach 	
Goal(s):	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct monitoring near Omnitrans to identify potential sources of emissions • Updates the CSC quarterly or biannually on air monitoring data results and information collected 	
Estimated Timeline:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Third quarter 2019, begin mobile air monitoring • First quarter of 2020, begin quarterly updates to the CSC 	
Implementing Agency, Organization, Business or Other Entity:	
Name:	Responsibilities:
South Coast AQMD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct air monitoring near the Omnitrans bus yard and in the surrounding community, and gather information through facility inspections and outreach • Provide the updates to the CSC
References:	
<p>For more information on the San Bernardino and Muscoy Community Air Monitoring Plan: https://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/ab-617-ab-134/camps/sbm_camp.pdf?sfvrsn=6</p>	

Action 2: Support Omnitrans' Transition to Zero-Emission Buses

Course of Action:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Omnitrans' efforts to accelerate the deployment of zero-emission buses and supporting infrastructure (e.g., letters of support) • Provide Omnitrans with information on incentive opportunities for zero-emission buses and supporting infrastructure 	
Strategies:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public information and outreach • Collaboration 	
Goal(s):	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop proposals and apply for grant opportunities that are designed to accelerate the deployment of zero-emission buses and electric vehicle chargers, in collaboration with Omnitrans 	
Estimated Timeline:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace the total fleet with electric buses at the following rate: 25% (by 2025), 50% (by 2028), and 100% (by 2040) • Provide annual updates to the CSC on work with Omnitrans to transition to zero-emission buses 	
Implementing Agency, Organization, Business or Other Entity:	

Name:	Responsibilities:
South Coast AQMD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide Omnitrans letters of support for grant applications that accelerate the deployment of zero-emission buses • Provide information to Omnitrans for opportunities to seek zero-emission buses and electric vehicle chargers
Omnitrans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit application materials for grants or funding towards zero-emission buses and electric vehicle chargers (e.g., the Low or No-Emission Grant Program) • Continue ongoing efforts to transition to a 100% zero-emission fleet by 2040 or earlier
References:	
<p>For more information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Omnitrans: http://www.Omnitrans.org/about/ • Low or No-Emission Grant Program: https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/applying/notices-funding/low-or-no-emission-low-no-program-fy-2019-notice-funding 	

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