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[Home](#) > MTS Electric Bus Fleet Reaches One Million Road Miles

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*Thousands of metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions reduced for the San Diego region*

**San Diego** – The San Diego Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) today announced a major milestone in reaching its goal to help San Diego reduce greenhouse gas emissions and advance cleaner air. On the road to having a carbon-neutral fleet by 2040, MTS's battery-electric buses eclipsed the one-million-mile marker last month. This milestone, 1,021,990 miles, represents 2,130 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e, or carbon dioxide equivalent, not being emitted into our region's air. It is also the equivalent of 4.9 million passenger vehicle miles traveled. This means less cars on the road and cleaner air.

"This great milestone demonstrates MTS' commitment to fostering a healthier environment and reaching our climate goals," said Stephen Whitburn, MTS Board Chair and San Diego City Councilmember, District 3. "We must do everything we can to combat climate change, and MTS is playing a significant role in this continued effort."

In September 2020, the MTS Board of Directors approved the agency's Zero Emission Bus (ZEB) transition plan to get the bus fleet to all zero emissions vehicles. The plan helped fast track the purchase of zero emission vehicles (ahead of the state mandate to start purchasing vehicles in 2023), including the region's first 60-ft articulated electric buses.

In October 2023, MTS launched the region's first electric *Rapid* bus route, *Rapid 227*, as part of the region's growing Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) network. This route features 12 60-foot battery electric buses, the first articulated electric vehicles in MTS' fleet.

Other electric buses in the fleet rotate on various routes across the system in the South Bay, East County, beach communities and more. The frequent rotation offers more riders the chance to ride electric buses and allows MTS to continue monitoring vehicle and battery performance on various routes, distances, times of day, temperatures and more.

MTS currently has 25 electric buses in service and more on the way to keep residents moving in a cleaner and greener way. MTS anticipates receiving 13 more electric buses in early 2025. Another big step in the agency's efforts to convert the entire fleet to all zero-emissions by 2040.

MTS has made a series of moves to advance its zero-emissions bus program in the last five years, helping reduce regional greenhouse gas emissions.

- In December 2019, MTS began its zero-emissions bus pilot by testing six battery-electric buses and setting in motion the two-year electric bus pilot program. The buses ranges were

tested under various driving characteristics, including weather, topography and more.

- In September 2020, the MTS Board approved a transition plan to convert the agency's 750 buses to zero-emission by 2040.
- MTS committed to purchasing its last internal combustion powered bus in 2028.
- Transition will cut the agency's greenhouse gas emissions on the bus side by approximately 43% over the next 19 years.
- In February 2021, MTS retired the last diesel bus in its fleet.
- In May 2022, MTS broke ground on an \$8.5 million retrofitting project at its South Bay bus division on an overhead charging system for battery-electric buses.
- In October 2022, MTS selected a site to build a new LEED-certified all-electric bus division to serve its growing zero-emission bus fleet.

Beginning in 2029, 100% of new bus purchases will be zero emission buses, with the goal for full transition by 2040.

## **About MTS**

The Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) operates 92 bus routes and three Trolley lines in 10 cities and unincorporated areas of San Diego. MTS is a leader in advancing initiatives to create a greener, cleaner and better-connected transit system in San Diego. Each weekday more than 250,000 passenger trips are taken throughout the MTS system taking people to work, school, health appointments and other essential trips. In FY 2023, MTS served more than 68 million riders. For service schedule updates, news, alerts and more information on how you can use public transportation, go to [www.sdmts.com](http://www.sdmts.com).

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