

NewsRelease



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Streetcars at the top of Coast Transit's list for Rebuilding Hurricane Ravaged Fleet.

Anniston, AL (August 4, 2008) – Three years ago, Hurricane Katrina had a major effect on the transit system in Gulfport, Mississippi, virtually wiping out Coast Transit Authority's entire fleet in one devastating day. But, by the spring of 2009, a new fleet of American Heritage Streetcars from North American Bus Industries will begin operating in the coastal corridor, bringing "new vintage" transit back to its streets.

"We needed to replace our entire revenue fleet and support fleet after Katrina," said Kevin Coggin, general manager, Coast Transit Authority. "These new streetcars will be a big step in the Gulf Coast's recovery process. A lot of our costal area still hasn't been rebuilt. So this will be a visible sign of progress ... which is something we've needed."

Coast Transit began operating the American Heritage's predecessor, Alamo City Streetcars, in 1990. "The Gulf Coast is a tourism destination, so a trolley is a perfect fit for us. Our community and visitors, had really fallen in love with those streetcars," Coggin added. "So we wanted to rebuild with more streetcars, and we wanted the cream of the crop."

"Authenticity is important to Coast Transit," said Chris Dabbs, regional sales manager, with North American Bus Industries. "They wanted an authentic looking turn-of-the-century trolley. The American Heritage is certainly that. Plus it successfully combines new technology in the vintage styling."

One high-tech system passengers will notice right away is the Voice Auto-Annunciation system. "These will be the very first streetcars we've produced to feature this system," Dabbs said. "You might expect to see this technology on our contemporary-style buses. But it's very exciting to see how North American Bus Industries is moving technology forward on our vintage-style vehicles, as well."

Using GPS technology, the system triggers audio announcements of the next route stop and destination. It also updates a display monitor to give passengers a visual announcement of upcoming stops and route. Coggin said they are also looking forward to the video system on their streetcars. "It will broadcast continuous programming and advertisements to entertain and inform our passengers, plus the advertising gives us a revenue source. This technology also includes a video surveillance system that will enhance passenger safety, and enable us to analyze any traffic accidents involving our vehicles."

Another high-tech system to be included on the streetcars is the automated farebox with its paperless passenger-counting system. Coggin also said the American Heritage's improved air conditioning system will be appreciated by the passengers. "It can get pretty hot and humid here. So the American Heritage's fully enclosed cabin and high-capacity air conditioner will be a big hit."

Coast Transit will begin receiving its nine streetcars in April 2009, and plans to put them into service by May. "Obviously, we're not just replacing our fleet, but dramatically modernizing it," Coggin said. So we're excited to get them in. The community is anxious, too. We hope it will help spur our recovery."

About Us: North American Bus Industries, Inc. markets three successful transit bus brands: NABI, Optima and Blue Bird offering a complete line of standard and low-floor, heavy-duty 30', 35', 40', 42', 60' and 65' (articulated) transit buses at its facilities in Anniston, Alabama. North American Bus Industries is the market leader with its sleek and most advanced designed BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) vehicles which offer a cost effective alternative to expensive light rail. The transit buses are available with clean diesel, CNG, LNG, or diesel hybrid-electric propulsion systems.

North American Bus Industries Financial Services (NABIFS): As a member of the Traxis Financial Group, NABIFS provides a suite of flexible, customer centric financial products and services to help North American Bus Industries' customers optimize their budgets to meet their bus ridership needs and requirements. Services include flexible lease and lease purchase financing, providing Transit Authorities with a mechanism to maximize available state and federal funding. When grant money or aid is unavailable, these offerings create customer benefits through optimization of customer's working capital and cash flow position. For information on North American Bus Industries Financial Services please contact our media relations group at 203 562 0200, and your local North American Bus Industries sales professional or visit us on the web. www.traxisfinancialgroup.com

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