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Proposal

Session Title

SacRT Hydrogen Hub

Route

Mobility Management & Social Services

Proposed Session Description

The transition to clean fuels is a daunting task for transit agencies. The choice between what electric and hydrogen is complex and can be fraught with expensive missteps. As an early adopter of electric buses from Protera, SacRT has encountered numerous reliability issues, with most buses currently out of service. SacRT decided to take a critical look at each fueling type and analyze them based on range availability, capital costs, fueling infrastructure, and fueling cost. Initially conducting a Battery Electric Bus feasibility study, we found that only 2/3rd of our fleet could be electrified and still meet our duty cycles. We subsequently undertook a Hydrogen Feasibility and Business Plan to look at ways to deliver hydrogen and the costs associated with each type. We concluded that 1/3 of our fleet could sustainably run on Hydrogen, if the price of hydrogen is \$8/kg or less.

To acquire the resources needed accommodate Hydrogen fueling and maintenance, SacRT applied for a Low-No grant and was awarded \$77M. With matching funds, SacRT now has over \$100M to build out a new bus maintenance facility, purchase 29 Hydrogen buses, and build a permanent distribution facility. A large part of this effort funds workforce development to ensure we have the staff needed to maintain this new fueling technology. To meet regional goals and coordinating with the Air District to identify funding to construct an "over the fence" fueling location for fleet vehicles. We are also working with potential vendors to develop a strategy to utilize the natural gas pipeline that currently serves the McClellan, and fuels our CNG buses, and build a Hydrogen production facility.

The presentation will focus on the analysis conducted to identify the needs of the agency, benefits of each fuel type, costs associated with their development, and opportunities to partner with other resource agencies to advance regional climate goals.