



## NEWS RELEASE / COMMUNIQUÉ

For immediate release:

June 2, 2010

### **OC Transpo: Transit Use Helps the Environment 52-Weeks A Year**

**Ottawa** - Using public transit is a smart choice— not just on Clean Air Day or during Environment Week, but every day, year-round. By taking transit, you can help our environment and improve quality of life for all. Not only will you be helping to reduce pollution and traffic volumes on Ottawa streets – you'll avoid the stress, frustration and expense of commuting by car.

Transit is a good choice and getting 'greener' all the time. OC Transpo is constantly seeking better ways to reduce fuel consumption and reduce its environmental footprint. The newer and greener articulated fleet that the City is going to get in the upcoming months will make a difference for the environment.

"The purchase of these new buses is an obvious choice. It makes sense for the environment and for our transit system. I eagerly wait to see this more eco-friendly fleet operating in our city's streets," said Mayor Larry O'Brien.

Over the next few months, OC Transpo will receive 306 new articulated buses to rejuvenate its fleet. These state-of-the-art buses will provide environmental benefits because they use less gas and will produce fewer emissions.

In April, City Council approved an initiative with New Flyer Industries to replace the City's aging fleet of articulated buses with new state-of-the-art models. The entire existing fleet of 226 buses comprised of 2001-2004 models will be replaced with the 2010 model. An additional 80 new buses are also part of the agreement. Purchasing the new buses will cost less than it would to keep the older buses on the road over the next nine years.

The new 2010 models feature a next generation engine that meets newer and more stringent emissions standards, while providing a 26-percent reduction in fuel consumption over the lifetime of the new buses, significant reductions in nitrogen oxide and 98 % in particulate matter pollutants, which are harmful to our health.

Delivery of the new buses is set to begin in August and is expected to be completed by March 2011. The first of the new buses is expected to be on Ottawa streets before the end of the summer.

OC Transpo's commitment to the environment goes beyond the buses we operate. In fact, we are also looking at how to best drive our buses to reduce our fuel consumption and emissions with our SmartDriver program.

"Environment Week is a good way for the public to become more conscious of environmental issues," said Transit Committee Chair Alex Cullen; "At OC Transpo we do this 52 weeks of the year".

Since last fall, OC Transpo bus operators have been participating in SmartDriver training sessions aimed at improving fuel economy and reducing pollution and vehicle maintenance costs. An initiative of the Canadian Urban Transit Association and Natural Resources Canada, the SmartDriver program is being used in more than 20 transit operations across Canada.

**City of Ottawa**  
110 Laurier Avenue West,  
Ottawa, ON K1P 1J1  
ottawa.ca

**Ville d'Ottawa**  
110, avenue Laurier Ouest  
Ottawa (Ontario) K1P 1J1  
ottawa.ca

With defensive driving and some other specific techniques, drivers are able to operate their vehicles more efficiently. Benefits include improving fuel economy by as much as 10 per cent, a smoother ride for passengers, fewer exhaust emissions and reduced wear on brakes and tires, extending their life span and cutting maintenance costs.

Car drivers can also follow the same principles while driving their vehicle. They will help them save money and improve their driving techniques.

SmartDriver tips include:

- Avoid braking at the last moment;
- Apply brakes gently to slow down;
- Anticipate change on the road ahead such as red lights or lane reductions;
- Release brakes slowly and then gently apply accelerator when changing gears;
- Keep your car in movement as rolling wheels reduce fuel consumption and idling emissions; and,
- Read traffic patterns to 'pace' your commute and better navigate road conditions

“At OC Transpo, our commitment to the environment is a priority. The new greener fleet and the Smart Driver program just go hand in hand for a better transit service. And for those who drive their car, they can always use some of the SmartDriver tips to reduce their fuel consumption and emissions,” said Alain Mercier, General Manager of Transit Services.

**Did you know:**

OC Transpo requires 2,200 new tires annually for its fleet. In order to be fiscally and environmentally responsible, 5,200 traction tires are retreaded and reused every year.

OC Transpo sends for recycling/reuse almost 200,000 litres of used oil and about 60,000 litres of anti-freeze every year.

For 2009-2010, OC Transpo also diverted from landfill more than 318,000 kg of various materials such as scrap metal, batteries, aerosol cans, oil filters, fluorescent tubes and bulbs, wood pallets, paper, containers and cardboard.

-30-

**For more information:**

Media contact  
613-580-2450

Public inquiries  
3-1-1