

Congressman Secured Federal Funds for Vehicles, Which Will Become Part of County's Mass Transit Fleet; Working with Obama Administration to Ensure County Can Use New Stimulus Funds for More Hybrid Buses

Vestal, NY - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today joined Broome County officials to officially debut six new hybrid transit buses that were acquired using federal funds Hinchey secured from Congress over the past several years. The buses' hybrid propulsion technology was designed by BAE Systems in Johnson City and the actual vehicles were constructed by Orion Bus Industries, a division of Daimler Bus of North America, in Oriskany, New York.

"Having these hybrid buses as a centerpiece of the Broome County transit fleet is very exciting and will have a positive impact on the entire community," Hinchey said. "I was very pleased to secure the federal funds needed to purchase these new buses, which spared Broome County taxpayers from having to pay for these state of the art buses. Additionally, these buses will require less fuel, which lowers their operating cost, and will result in less pollution in the area."

Using his seat on the House Appropriations Committee, Hinchey secured more than \$3 million in federal funds over the past several years for Broome County to purchase the six new hybrid buses, which will now hit the roadways and become part of the county's transit system.

Hinchey is also working to help secure six additional hybrid buses for Broome County (for a total of 12 hybrid buses) with money from the recently approved economic recovery bill. The congressman helped shape the energy efficient, mass transit provisions in the economic recovery bill, which he subsequently voted for and helped pass through Congress. The economic recovery package is providing \$3.65 million for Broome County to purchase additional hybrid buses. Hinchey is working with the Obama administration and congressional transportation officials to ensure the county is able to purchase the additional hybrid buses within the parameters set forth for using federal economic recovery money. The congressman said he fully expects that the county will be able to use the \$3.65 million to acquire six additional hybrid buses.

"Under the leadership of County Executive Fiala, Broome County is establishing itself as a role model that other counties and municipalities across the country can follow for their own energy efficient and environmentally-friendly mass transit solutions," Hinchey said. "Having the hybrid

technology for these new buses developed right here in Broome County makes this roll-out even more exciting. This is a perfect example of how smart energy and transportation policy can improve our environment, reduce energy consumption, and create local jobs. The United States can and must be a leader in the next generation of transportation technology, and I believe the Southern Tier can continue to play a central role to that end."

BAE Systems developed its HybriDrive propulsion system in Johnson City in the 1990s. The technology is used extensively by transit authorities in New York City, San Francisco, and Toronto, having accumulated more than 50 million miles of service -- and in the process, preventing 50,000 tons of carbon emissions. The new hybrid buses deliver a third better fuel economy than conventional buses while greatly reducing emissions: 90 percent less particulate matter, 40 percent less nitrogen oxide and 30 percent fewer greenhouse gases. Particulate matter is smog component that damages lungs and cause serious respiratory and other health problems. BAE Systems will use the local Broome County hybrid fleet to test equipment and software enhancements as it seeks to continually improve vehicle performance and efficiency.