

## Metro to test battery-electric buses

Supported by a \$4.7 million grant from the Federal Transit Administration, Metro will soon begin testing three quiet, zero-emission, battery-electric buses to determine if this technology might be used in Metro's fleet someday.

Manufactured by Proterra Inc., the buses have fast-charge batteries that can be recharged in less than 10 minutes. They are designed to operate up to 23 miles between charges and get the equivalent of 15 miles per gallon more than a regular hybrid coach. The charging station is located at Eastgate Park and Ride.

The buses have no engine, fuel system, engine cooling system, exhaust system or emissions treatment system, so maintenance and parts-replacement costs are expected to be lower than for diesel buses.

Metro will test their performance and efficiency as part of its normal operations. The buses will be housed in Metro's Bellevue Base, and will operate on routes throughout Metro's service area.

The testing, which will be done for about one year, will allow Metro to assess where these buses can best be used and what their performance will be like in Metro's operating environment.

The outcome will help determine whether battery electric bus technology represents a promising replacement option for

Metro's 40-foot diesel coaches. The demonstration will also determine how the technology compares with the performance of Metro's hybrid fleet.

Proterra was founded in 2004 and has offices in South Carolina and California. It was the first manufacturer to have electric-vehicle buses in revenue service in the U.S.

### FAST FACTS

- Proterra bus length: 40 feet
- Passenger capacity: 54 (38 seated)
- Coaches have LED interior and exterior lights.
- Fuel economy: 20.8 MPGe

