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For Immediate Release: September 21, 2010

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Oshkosh Transit System Unveils Hybrid Buses

(Oshkosh, WI.) The Oshkosh Transit System (OTS) started a new era today at a morning news conference, when it placed four hybrid-electric buses into service. Oshkosh Transit is the first transit system in Northeast Wisconsin to utilize hybrid buses in public transit. The new 40-foot hybrid buses replace four existing conventional diesel buses built in 1997. The hybrid buses are painted light green to symbolize their “green” benefits and to stand out for the community.

The hybrid-electric buses combine both diesel and electric power. The main advantage is that they use less fuel and emit less pollution than conventional diesel buses. By replacing four 1997 model diesel buses from the fleet, Oshkosh Transit will save 86,000 gallons of diesel over the 12-year life of the hybrids. That is an estimated 20% savings in fuel consumed.

“Oshkosh Transit is excited to take advantage of this green technology,” says Chris Strong, City of Oshkosh Transportation Director and Manager of the Oshkosh Transit System. “OTS continues to provide an efficient and environmentally-friendly mode of travel with the goal of improving energy efficiency, reducing greenhouse gases, and encouraging new riders to take the bus.”

This project was funded entirely by a \$2.1 million American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) award through the Federal Transit Administration. The purpose of ARRA transportation funding is to invest in environmental protection and provide economic benefits. Oshkosh Transit’s hybrid buses are expected to have a positive impact on the environment and New Flyer of America, Inc, the bus manufacturer, reports seven US based jobs sustained by this project.

For more information on hybrid buses or any OTS services please visit www.oshkoshtransit.com or call the OTS offices at (920) 232-5340.

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