

Bus Overhaul & Refurbishment Program Saves \$3.48 Million Over 2-Years

The Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority (CCRTA) developed and instituted a bus overhaul and refurbishment program that doubles the life expectancy of their large passenger fleet buses (better known as “Gillig” buses) at less than half the cost of a new bus purchase, saving an estimated \$3.48 million over 2-years. This bus overhaul program was developed after a thorough cost-benefit analysis clearly demonstrated that it was far more cost effective and beneficial to overhaul and refurbish its Gillig bus fleet than to purchase new buses.

Under current operations, the CCRTA utilizes 26 Gillig buses in the provision of its transportation services. A fully equipped, new Gillig bus costs approximately \$520,000 and is expected to provide 500,000 miles of relatively trouble-free service. The mid-life overhaul and refurbishment of each Gillig bus is performed at approximately the 500,000 mile mark (by Coach Crafters, Inc., of Tavares, Florida) at a cost of roughly \$230,000, which effectively doubles the lifespan and expected mileage for each bus. This equates to a savings of approximately \$290,000 for each bus that is overhauled and refurbished as compared to the purchase of a new Gillig bus.

To date, six Gillig buses received mid-life overhaul and refurbishment in 2014/2015 and another six Gillig buses are scheduled for overhaul in 2015/2016. Over this 2-year period alone, it is expected that this bus overhaul program will save approximately \$3.48 million. An additional \$1.74 million will be saved each subsequent year with the planned overhaul of six buses annually until the entire fleet is completed.

The type and scope of replacement parts and refurbishments is extensive. When an overhauled Gillig bus returns to CCRTA operation, bus operators have commented that they operate exactly like a brand new bus. Some of the items that are replaced with new parts include:

- Engines
- Transmissions
- Transmission coolers
- Suspensions
- Paint
- HVAC parts
- Air Brake system & parts
- Flooring
- Drivers’ seats and passenger seat coverings
- Window seals & gaskets
- All LED lighting components
- 9-camera video and audio recording systems
- Electronic marquee signage
- Tires & wheels

- Steering systems & parts
- Belts & hoses
- And numerous other smaller parts

The CCRTA Gilling bus overhaul and refurbishment program achieves a cost effective and efficient use of public funds to extend the useful life of its bus fleet well beyond their usual time expectancy, while at the same time realizing several million dollars in cost savings.



BEFORE



AFTER