



**Wayne Doran** compiles American Jotter. Write to 25 Blueberry Lane, Canton Center, CT 06019-4502 or email waynedoran1@comcast.net

**AKRON, OH** Metro RTA provides the transit service in and around the greater Akron area and Summit County utilizing a fleet of 132 vehicles and carries more than six million passengers annually. The fleet includes high floor Gillig Phantoms, Gillig Advantage low floor buses, New Flyer low floor buses (both CNG and diesel), Orion V CNG and even some MCI D4000 commuter coaches. (Kevin Nicol)

**ALLIANCE BUS CHARTERS** Alliance recently acquired a new Setra S 417 and three pre-owned S 417 coaches from Daimler North America. The charter-based tour company serves the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex. (METRO Magazine)

**AMERICAN CANYON, CA** The proposed new route for the in-town bus will use quieter roads to avoid traffic congestion. The Napa Transportation and Planning Agency operates "The Duck," Mon-Friday out to northern Vallejo. It proposes to charge a dollar fare to those seniors who ask to be picked up or dropped off at a location other than a regular bus stop. The seniors now pay 50 cents. (Eagle)

**ANN ARBOR, MI** The first of 20 new GM-Allison hybrid-powered buses from Gillig Corp. were delivered to AATA in October and the last 5 are due in March 2008. AATA plans to eventually replace all 69 buses in its fleet with hybrids. Having predicted that the 20 new hybrid buses will save about USD 2.5 million in fuel costs AATA has begun using 5% biodiesel fuel fleet-wide. This costs 10-15 cents more per gallon (3-4 cents/litre). (METRO magazine, AATA)

**BANGOR, ME** Bangor Area Transit's (BAT) fleet includes 30' Orion V, Thomas SLF235 and brand new cutaways with Champion bodies. BAT also has some Bluebird Ultra LF buses. (Kevin Nicol)

**BENTON COUNTY, OR** In November 2007 Benton County Dial-A-Bus began Coast to Valley Express bus service between Corvallis and Newport. Buses run twice a day on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, leaving Corvallis in the early morning and early afternoon, with priority given to seniors and disabled. Others can reserve a place on the bus as space is available. Riders will transfer to a Lincoln County bus at a halfway point on the route and then will be delivered at any destination point in the city of Newport. One-way tickets cost USD 7. (Gazette Times)

**BLACK HAWK, CO** Black Hawk Transportation Authority has awarded a USD 650,000 contract to MV Transportation Inc. to operate the Black Hawk and Central City Tramway Shuttle Bus Services. MV will manage and operate the city's fixed-route circulator, and ancillary facilities, initially for one year, with two one-year options. (METRO Magazine)

**BOSTON, MA** MBTA has launched "T-Alerts," that notify commuters of service delays via email and text message updates. (METRO Magazine)

**BOSTON-NYC** The Boston-to-New York bus wars are revving up, and the newest incentives are free onboard WiFi and guaranteed seating. The WiFi offer depends on buses having routers and enough electrical outlets to recharge each passenger's laptop, cellphone, or iPod during the four-hour ride. Neither Greyhound Lines nor Chinatown bus companies Fung Wah Transportation or Lucky River's Lucky Star offer riders WiFi. Vamoose is selling one-way reserved seats for USD 22 over the phone and the Internet. Tickets cost the same if bought in person, but those passengers will be on standby until 10 minutes before departure, after all the reserved seat holders have settled in. In contrast, the Chinatown buses sell their USD 15 one-way tickets to as many riders as are willing to buy them, regardless of the availability of seats. Greyhound, which shares buses and routes with Peter Pan Bus Lines, also oversells one-way tickets - for USD 35 if bought in person or USD 15 if purchased online. (Boston Globe)

**BRAZOS VALLEY TRAVEL** Brazos operates a fleet of five coaches, recently having acquired two MCI J4500s. The business plan calls for the addition of one more coach and updates to the older coaches for a total of six MCI J4500 EPA compliant models by December 2008. Brazos, based in Waco, TX, transports U.S. military personnel, school children, college students and senior

adult tours.

**BRISTOL, RI** Roger Williams University has refurbished its Ford F-350 shuttle bus to use canola oil rather than diesel. The bus has two tanks, one for canola and one for diesel. Because canola oil is thicker than diesel, it needs to be heated up before it can be used. So when a driver turns the ignition on the converted bus, it initially runs on diesel. When the engine is warm enough, a process that takes about 10 minutes, it switches to oil. (Providence Journal)

**CAPITAL TRAILWAYS** Capital began direct, daily express service from Harrisburg, PA to New York City in November 2007 with an introductory fare of USD 20 one way. The new service will arrive and depart from the Port Authority Terminal. Capital plans similar service to Baltimore/Washington and to Philadelphia soon. (National Bus Trader)

**CHICAGO CLASSIC COACH** Taking delivery of four MCI J4500 luxury coaches, Chicago Classic has the first low-emission, high-end tour coaches in the greater Chicago area. They are based at the company's Mt Prospect facility. The new MCI J4500 models bring the company fleet to 20 coaches and two mini-coaches. (MCI website)

**CHICAGO, IL** Because of funding shortfalls and disputes with the State, CTA will cut 81 of its 154 bus routes and lay off 2,400 workers in January 2008. CTA plans to lease 150 new buses at a cost of USD 120 million. CTA has some 700 buses of early 1990s vintage and at least three or four a month are removed from service as beyond economic repair. The agency said the new buses would cost USD 13.2 million a year, but would save over USD 900,000 a year on fuel and nearly USD 4 million a year on maintenance. [Who's doing the math here? It doesn't look like saving to the news ed]. The buses are expected to be 150 articles from over 700 that Kansas City Metro (KCM) ordered from New Flyer in May 2007. These articles will add to the CTA fleet of 'troubled' NABI articles, which have proven to be less than good buses. The articles will be GM-Allison hybrids, which CTA has been testing for a while. (METRO Magazine & CPTDB & Gerald Knight)

**CLEVELAND, OH** New Flyer's first Bus Rapid Transit article will be used for the new busway due to be opened later in 2008 by the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority along the Euclid Avenue Corridor (Wm. Luke)

**DALLAS, TX** DART favours diesel engines for 537 buses that will start rolling through North Texas in 2010. North Texas air doesn't meet federal law standards for smog, so local government has urged DART to look at cleaner burning natural gas and other fuels. (News 8)

**DISNEY WORLD, FL** The now rather famous Disney Cruise Lines buses, operated by Mears in Florida have introduced a new livery. The wrap makes the windows appear like cruise ship portholes. (Carlos Arganda)



**ABOVE:** "It is eye catching moving down the highway" is the comment on the latest Disney livery (Carlos Arganda)

**EVERETT, WA** Community Transit has ordered 15 60-foot hybrid BRT vehicles from New Flyer with options for an additional 34 buses. Community Transit and Everett Transit have been at loggerheads for decades but they have now formalized plans to create a BRT system. They will operate on a 17-mile corridor along Highway 99 — which in Everett becomes Evergreen Way and then Rucker Avenue — using automated

ticketing, special lanes and signal priority at busy intersections to streamline trips. The buses won't run until 2009, however, because the USD 30 million project includes building 29 bus stations — pairs of northbound and southbound stops at 13 locations plus three stops in the general area of 196th Street Southwest. The stations will be roomier than standard shelters, with good lighting, real-time schedule monitors and ticket vending machines. Under the agreement Community Transit will operate the buses within Everett city limits. (Times Snohomish County)

**FRAMINGHAM, MA** MetroWest Regional Transit Authority celebrated its first 12 months in December 2007. The authority has nine member towns: Natick, Framingham, Holliston, Hopkinton, Ashland, Wayland and Weston, Sudbury and Sherborn and provides fixed bus services for most members, plus The RIDE and on-demand van services for some member communities. (MetroWest Daily News)

**GAINESVILLE, FL** Regional Transit Service (RTS) received 12 Gillig Advantage low floor buses in November.

**GARY, IN** Gary Public Transportation Corp. (GPTC) saw a sharp decline of 10.4% in ridership in 2006, with just over 1 million rides. GPTC was one of two large, fixed route bus services in Indiana to see a decline in ridership that year. A consequence has been a financial crisis with default on Federal Transit Administration (FTA) USD 3.7 million debt. The FTA says if GPTC cannot agree a satisfactory remediation plan it could be out of business by year's end.

**GLACIER NATIONAL PARK, MT** NABI is to supply an unspecified number of 30-ft Opus buses for shuttle services in the Park starting in the 2008 season. (METRO)

**GREENE COACH** Founded in 1945, Greene Coach is the oldest private tour and charter operation in Tennessee. It will soon take delivery of two MCI J4500 coaches, the first to have the low-emission Cummins ISM engine paired with an Allison B500 transmission. (METRO Magazine)

**GREENSBORO, NC** Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation (PART) has ordered five Orion VII Next Generation for its Express Bus Service.

**GREYHOUND** Greyhound claims to have spent USD 60 million over the past three years to freshen up its fleet of 1,250 buses and its largest terminals. The upgrade started in 2004, when the company eliminated many small-town stops and routes. (BWW 135) Fifty new Prevost X3-45 buses have been ordered, the first time Greyhound has had Prevost for its fleet although Greyhound of Canada has used them in the past. Greyhound has expanded its priority seating programme to more than 30 major cities across the U.S. whereby passengers, for a USD 5 fee, can select a specific seat and board before non-priority passengers. Riders must be present at the gate no less than 20 minutes before departure. (Wm. Luke, METRO Magazine)

**HARTFORD, CT** CTTRANSIT has ordered 22 New Flyer buses for the Hartford express bus fleet. They will replace an equal number of 1994 high floor commuter buses on the 12 express routes serving downtown Hartford from suburban park and ride lots. The new buses will be low-floor with single doors and high-back seats.

**HONOLULU, HI** TheBus has a new rapid bus service, the CountryExpress. Route "E" runs between Ewa Beach, Downtown Honolulu and Waikiki, using the H-1 Freeway from Waipahu and makes only limited stops in town. The new service operates from early morning until late evening, seven days a week. The Ewa community is one of the fastest growing on Oahu. (Honolulu Advertiser)

**HOUSTON, TX** Following the arrival of the first hybrids (BWW 149), Houston has ordered 52 more from MCI with options for a total of 142 units. MCI was the first intercity coach manufacturer to launch a commuter hybrid electric-diesel coach. The 55-seat buses for Houston METRO will be new-look D4500 with Cummins and Allison propulsion system. To save