

The Road to Zero Emission Buses — National Coordinated Effort to Prepare Frontline Technicians



Transitioning from work with the 12- and 24-volts electrical systems in traditional diesel and CNG buses to Zero Emissions Buses (ZEBs), with upwards of 800 volts, requires a significant commitment to additional skills training and development. Transit Workforce Center is producing critical resources as part of a nationally coordinated effort to help prepare frontline technicians with the training needed to meet the challenges and demands of this new technology.

— ZEB Maintenance Training Materials —

In late 2022, the TWC will release a complete training course that will supply agencies with ready-to-use materials designed to familiarize technicians with the fundamentals of Battery Electric Buses (BEB) maintenance and technology. The finished product will include classroom materials, instructional videos, hands-on exercises, and assessments that will prepare technicians for product-specific training offered by the bus manufacturers. This course, based on [a three-part webinar series on BEB Familiarization](#) developed by the International Transportation Learning Center (ITLC) in coordination with the major bus manufacturers, was delivered to hundreds of technicians across multiple agencies in 2021. [These webinars](#) provide technicians with an initial foundational understanding of this rapidly-developing technology.

— National ZEB Maintenance Training Standards —

Working with the American Public Transportation Association (APTA), international transit unions, and ZEB manufacturers, TWC is developing ZEB-specific national training standards for technicians. These standards will be composed of learning objectives, skills, and content that will provide ZEB training developers with an industry-accepted framework for training materials. The completed ZEB training standards are expected in fall 2022.

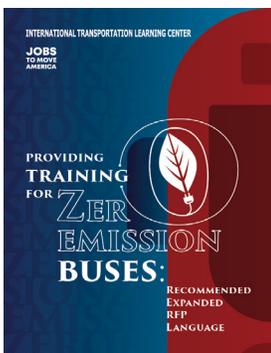


— Resources and Best Practices on ZEB Workforce Transition —

In consultation with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), TWC developed detailed [Resources and Best Practices](#) on workforce transition plans required when agencies apply for funding under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 to purchase Zero Emission Buses. The Resources and Best Practices offer direction on identifying training needs, engaging workforce stakeholders, connecting with needed partners, and paying for the required training.

— Recommended Expanded RFP Language for ZEB Training —

In conjunction with Jobs to Move America (JMA), ITLC has developed [sample language](#) that transit agencies can use when procuring ZEB training. The language, intended to be inserted into the agency's request for proposals (RFPs) when bidding for ZEBs, includes recommendations for specifying the type, quality, and duration of training and personal protective equipment (PPE). This suggested RFP language builds and expands upon material contained in the [APTA Standard Bus Procurement Guidelines \(SBPG\)](#).



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