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**LeeTran tests propane vehicles for fuel efficiency**

Fort Myers, FL, May 21, 2015 – LeeTran has added five new propane vehicles to its fleet of paratransit vans with the goal of significantly reducing emissions while saving up to \$20,000 annually in fuel expense.

The new 23-foot vehicles replace diesel-powered vans that reached the end of their useful lives. The benefits of choosing propane include:

- Lower cost: currently about \$1.20 per gallon versus diesel at \$2.30 to \$2.40 per gallon;
- Less price volatility: the price of diesel adjusts twice a day; LeeTran can lock in a price for propane for a year;
- Lower emissions: 24 percent less greenhouse gas emissions than gasoline, 60 percent less carbon monoxide; only natural gas has a lower emission rate;
- Energy independence: 91 percent of propane comes from the United States, mostly as a byproduct of natural gas production.

Maintenance Manager Bob Southall explains that cost savings and efficiencies exist in maintenance procedures as well. “Propane doesn’t require after-treatment of the exhaust the way diesel does,” he said. “And the frequency of oil changes is cut in half.”

The vehicles were purchased using federal grant funds, and the fuel delivery system was purchased with a state grant that encourages the use of alternate fuels.

“LeeTran is committed to the use of alternative fuels, when there are financial and operational, as well as environmental benefits,” LeeTran Director Steve Myers said. “Half of our full-size fleet is hybrid-electric, and we continue to evaluate other technologies and products to make our fleet greener and more efficient.”

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*Note to media: We can arrange interviews with Mr. Southall as well as visual opportunities with the propane vehicles.*