

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contacts:** Jenna Higgins/National Biodiesel Board  
1-800-841-5849  
Jenny Williams/Lex Tran  
(859) 255-7756

### **LexTran Buses Powered by Soy-based Fuel**

(Princeton, KY) This Spring, passengers on city buses in Lexington, Kentucky might notice a faint smell resembling vegetable oil in the air. The Lexington Transit Authority (LexTran) announced today its buses are running on biodiesel, a clean-burning alternative fuel made from soybean oil.

LexTran is using B20, a common blend of 20% biodiesel and 80% petroleum diesel, in its fleet of 46 city buses. LexTran joins the ranks of other city transit authorities using the fuel, like New Jersey Transit, Cincinnati Metro and Five Seasons Transportation in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Biodiesel is not raw soybean oil, but rather is made through a conventional chemical process called transesterification. The use of biodiesel reduces emissions such as carbon monoxide, particulate matter and hydrocarbons compared to petroleum diesel. Biodiesel offers similar performance to diesel, has excellent lubricity and is the safest of all fuels to use, handle and store.

"I'm very excited about biodiesel being used in our buses," said Steve Rowland, LexTran executive director. "This is the first alternative fuel I've ever been exposed to that is truly practical for our operation. We can immediately begin cleaning up the air in our state without having to invest in special vehicles or even having to make changes in our current buses. We literally became a cleaner-burning, alternative fuel fleet overnight."

The initial program runs through June. It is a joint venture involving LexTran, the Kentucky Soybean Promotion Board and Griffin Industries, Inc. Griffin Industries will produce the soy-based biodiesel fuel and have the B20 blend delivered by LexTran's fuel distributor.

The grant will be used to finance the slight price increase of the soy-based biodiesel to run LexTran's buses. They will cover about 450,000 miles during the program.

"The grant is part of an effort to create more demand so farmers can get better prices," said Debbie Ellis, executive director of the Kentucky Soybean Board. Kentucky has 6,500 soybean farmers with average production yields of 42 to 44 million bushels of soybeans per year

Even though this initial biodiesel program only goes through June, it is likely that LexTran will continue using biodiesel as Kentucky continues efforts to clean up the air," Rowland said.

Biodiesel has been used in Europe for about 20 years. Although biodiesel is not yet as well known as other alternative fuels in the U.S., it is an established fuel with a proven track record. More than 60 major U.S. fleets currently use biodiesel. It is available in all 50 states and has been proven successful in 40 million road miles.

Biodiesel is registered with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as a fuel and fuel additive. It is the only alternative fuel to have passed the rigorous Health Effects testing requirements of the Clean Air Act. Those test results show biodiesel reduces carcinogenic air toxics by 75-90% compared to diesel. The results, submitted to the EPA in 2000, also show biodiesel is non-toxic, biodegradable and free of sulfur.

*Readers can learn more about biodiesel by visiting <http://www.biodiesel.org>. The National Biodiesel Board is funded in part by the United Soybean Board and state soybean board checkoff programs.*

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