

## Today's Transit for Tomorrow's World

# Early Adoption How to Minimize Detours in ZEB Deployments

Lauren Skiver CEO/General Manager

## **SunLine Facts**



## **SunLine Operations**

- Fourteen (14) local SunBus fixed routes, (1) express line, (1) Riverside Commuter Link, ADA Paratransit
- 68 CNG buses
- 10 Electric Hydrogen Fuel Cell buses (6 on the way)
- 3 All Electric Battery buses (4 on the way)
- 39 CNG Paratransit Vehicles
- 220 Kg Hyradix Reformer
- Usage 200 Kg per day
- Installing 900Kg per day Electrolyzer through a CARB funded project with NEL/Proton

### **People Often Ask Us**



- What has contributed to SunLine's ZEB success?
  - Mission focus on alternative fuel use
  - Commitment by SunLine staff
  - Board Policy/support
  - Internal expertise and continual reinvestment
  - Solution based approaches with OEM's
  - Sustained efforts to pioneer the technologies that the industry is using today
  - Data collection and review of performance, costs and life cycle reliability
  - Strong communication to our internal team and external stakeholders

### H2 Bus Affordability











### **Availability**



#### Fuel Cell Buses Availability



#### Fuel Cell Buses Reasons for Unavailability



#### CNG Buses Availability



#### CNG Buses Reasons for Unavailability



### **Success and Challenges**



### Successes

- Zero Emissions vehicles should be integrated into your pull-out and not segregated as a special fleet
- Anticipate short term system issues by obtaining additional financial support coverage for vehicles in grant requests
- SunLine has invested in Hydrogen infrastructure to manage operating costs and create fueling self-sufficient
- Integrate Zero Emissions Technology into the Planning, Financial, and Programming strategies for the Agency
- Develop internal champions of the technology inside and outside the agency

### **Success and Challenges**



### Challenges

- Choose technical and OEM partners carefully
  - Financial solvency and commitmment
  - Knowledge of US funding and procurement rules
  - Seek independent project and construction cost analysis experts to ensure project cost projections are real world
- Ensure that all taxes, shipping, and internal staff time costs involved have been addressed
- Consider the value of in-kind support when drafting a grant
- There WILL be performance issues. Stay focused on ensuring they are not just "regular" bus issues versus new technology issues

## **Reaching the Industry**



- How can we achieve SunLine's success at other transit properties?
  - Enhance education efforts
    - Most Operators assume Hydrogen is too complicated for their team and their community
      - Operators using CNG are already well on the way to a potential Hydrogen program
  - Infrastructure
    - Hydrogen is not available in cost effective forms
      - Hydrogen producers do not currently see a viable market in the transportation sector
      - A "starter set" scalable solution to infrastructure just like BB chargers sold with H2 buses is needed
  - Manufacturer/Operator relationships
    - Ensuring all parties understand risk and work together to solve problems

## **Reaching the Industry**



- What should you do to start a ZEB program?
  - Create a Board Policy
    - Most Operators assume Hydrogen is too complicated/expensive for their team and their community
  - Develop a mission or focus on ZEB technology
    - Ensure that the agency knows what and why leadership is directing change a in platform
    - Develop internal champions who are emerging leaders and believe in the benefits of piloting new technology
  - Redesign of your existing system
    - We have to "stop selling, what riders aren't buying"
    - Plan your new network using ZEBs
      - Many agencies are looking at more frequent, reduced running times and more productive services
  - Manufacturer/Operator relationships
    - Ensuring all parties understand risk and work together to solve problems











Lskiver@sunline.org