

Reshaping Transportation Access and Mobility

By **LISA WOOD**

Electric companies are proving to be an integral partner in expanding electric transportation by helping to provide access to electric vehicles (EVs) to more customers and across multiple transportation modes. It is well known that the growth of passenger EVs is booming—a 26-percent increase in 2017 alone—and expected to exceed 1 million on the road by the end of 2018. What is less well known is that an array of businesses and municipal organizations are exploring ways to move both cargo and people with electricity.

Environmental benefits and fuel savings are the drivers. Electric companies are supporting the transformation to electric buses, electric fleets, and electric shuttles.

Municipal and School Buses

Transit agencies and school districts are looking to move more passengers on electric buses, which have lower operating costs and lower emissions.

As electric buses become more mainstream, transit agencies and schools are focused on the siting, deployment, and use of charging infrastructure. And electric companies are working closely with them.

- In January 2018, Southern California Edison received approval from regulators to deploy make-ready infrastructure (up to 20 charge ports) at bus depots and along bus routes to serve electric commuter buses.

- In New York City, as the metropolitan transit authority is planning trials of electric buses, Con Edison is figuring out its role in electric bus charging, including managed charging services.
- Pacific Gas and Electric Company is deploying make-ready infrastructure and providing incentives to school bus fleet operators to shift charging times to align with renewable energy generation.
- In Albuquerque, PNM Resources is working with the city to support 20 state-of-the-art electric buses that are part of the city's new rapid transit initiative.

Fleet Delivery and Shuttle Services

Electric companies also are working with shuttle service providers and fleet delivery services in their transition to EVs.

- In January 2018, San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E) received regulatory approval to install, own, operate, and maintain five charging facilities including one solar-plus-storage facility.
- SDG&E is partnering with local delivery services to install, own, operate, and maintain charging stations for up to 90 new medium-duty electric delivery vehicles. SDG&E and UPS plan to deploy 20 Level 2 chargers and one DC fast charger at each of three locations.

Electric companies can help bus and fleet owners address key challenges including deployment of charging infrastructure and managed charging for vehicles.

Accelerating Adoption

Policies that enable electric company involvement and investment in the EV market will result in increased value and access for customers. State regulators and environmental organizations are recognizing this and supporting electric company participation to drive down costs, broaden market access for customers, and spur innovation in electric transportation. **EP**



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