



# Lancaster Makes Its Mark as GREEN TRANSPORTATION HUB

After only six years, BYD has grown to become North America's largest maker of electric buses, with 300 clean and efficient buses on the road today.

When BYD arrived in Lancaster in 2013, they had high hopes, but little track record in the country. It began in a former recreational vehicle facility with a handful of employees putting together ten battery-electric buses for LA Metro. Since then, the company has expanded dramatically and recently delivered its 300th bus to IndyGo, the regional transit authority for Indianapolis, Indiana.

Today, BYD employs more than 750 workers in Lancaster, with more than half a million square feet dedicated to producing up to 1,500 buses a year. Local BYD employees have delivered electric buses to more than 50 customers across thirteen states and four Canadian provinces, including the Antelope Valley Transit Authority (see sidebar). In total, BYD has contracts for more than 650 buses and has options for 300 more. Typically, there are 80 different buses on the factory floor in various stages of assembly.

Lancaster's green transportation legacy may very well reach beyond electric buses, however, as BYD's local success in public transit has led Los Angeles leaders to explore new options. Recently, City of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti suggested that BYD's Sky Rail monorail system might be a viable solution to the chronic congestion in the Sepulveda Pass. Proponents claim it could be built much quicker and at lower costs than other proposals.

Perhaps Lancaster's future lies not only in building clean buses, but in fast, efficient monorails as well—a BYD pursuit that will propel the City to the next level in green transportation.

## AVTA celebrates 1 million miles of service for its electric bus fleet

As one of BYD's first customers, the Antelope Valley Transit Authority was an early adopter of clean electric buses and pledged to become the nation's first all-electric transit fleet. Today, they operate about 30 BYD-built buses on a daily basis and recently surpassed one million miles of service for the electric fleet.



"These buses are not only clean and reliable—they are cost-effective as well," said AVTA Executive Director and CEO Macy Neshati. "Our electric buses operate at a cost of about 31¢ per mile compared to \$1.57 per mile for diesel vehicles. We expect AVTA's entire fleet to be converted to electric buses as we reach our second million miles, and the savings will be even greater by then—nearly \$500,000 in fuel cost savings."

Once AVTA's fleet of 75 buses is fully electric, the Authority will boast 78% better energy efficiency; a carbon footprint reduced by 1.3 million pounds of CO2 annually; and a continued reduction in air and noise pollution—furthering the positive impacts of Lancaster's green transportation transformation.