

ACHIEVING CLEAN TRANSIT IN CALIFORNIA

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In an effort to clean up California's transit buses, the California Air Resources Board developed the Transit Bus Rule, which gave transit districts the option of selecting two pathways: a diesel path and an alternative fuel path. The diesel pathway required transit operators to retrofit older buses with particulate traps, to purchase low-emission diesel vehicles in the future, and to conduct demonstration programs for zero-emission buses. In addition, diesel engine manufacturers committed to producing demonstration engines that could achieve significant reductions in nitrogen oxide and particulate emissions. Today, almost 3 years after the transit rule's initial adoption, the diesel fuel path has yet to live up to its full expectations in terms of emission benefits, creating numerous setbacks, while alternative fuel applications appear more and more to be the bridge to a zero-emission transit bus future.