

Environmental News Brief

Presented by the Baltimore Metropolitan Council for the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board

September 1, 2006

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The following news "briefs" highlight recent news regarding transportation-related environmental issues, primarily air quality, affecting the Baltimore region. Please note that this brief is not all inclusive of the variety and magnitude of activities in the region. It is intended for informational purposes only; refer to the source, guidance, or program for additional information.

E85 Fueling Station Opens in Baltimore

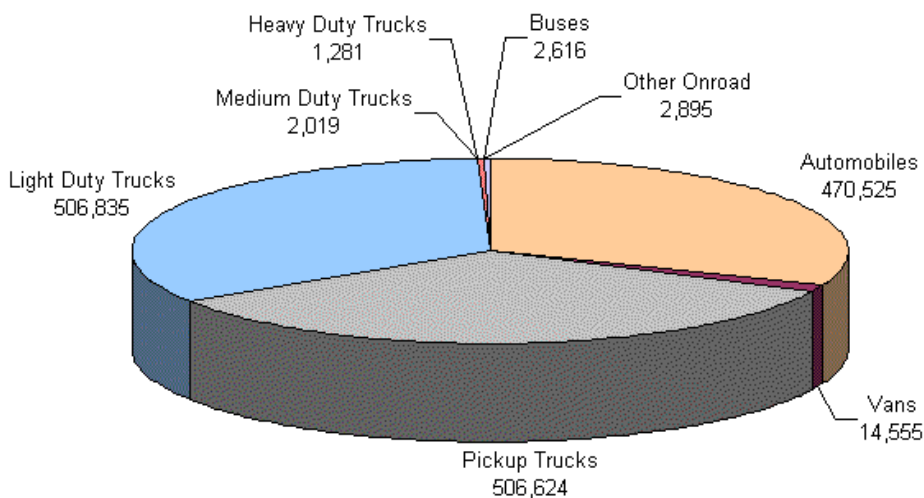


The first state-owned E85 ethanol fueling facility in Maryland opened in August. The facility is at the State Office Center in Baltimore. The goal is to have more of the state's fleet run on alternative fuels. Funding for the installation was provided by the Maryland Energy Administration, the U. S. Department of Energy's Clean Cities program and the Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board.

[Click for the referenced article.](#)

Data Released on Alternative Fuel and Hybrid Vehicle Availability

**Alternative Fuel and Hybrid Vehicles Planned
To Be Made Available, 2006**



In August, the Energy Information Administration released data on the numbers of alternative fuel and hybrid vehicles made available in 2005 and projected to be available in 2006. It is projected that around 1.5 million alternative fuel or hybrid onroad vehicles will be made available in 2006. Around one third of these will be pickup trucks which can be powered with E85 ethanol. In 2005, just under 900,000 alternative fuel and hybrid vehicles were available in the U.S.

[Click for the Energy Information Administration web site.](#)

Considering a Hybrid?

The amount of tax credit available for hybrid cars varies by the make and model of the car. Tax credit information can be found at www.irs.gov. If you plan on buying a Toyota Prius, a popular hybrid car model, you should consider that if you want the full \$3,150 tax credit available, you need to purchase it by the end of September. After this month, the tax credit will be reduced by half.

[Click for the referenced article.](#)

Ozone Monitor for Baltimore City

The Maryland Department of the Environment is increasing the air quality monitoring network in Maryland by adding a ground-level ozone monitor in Baltimore City. The monitor will be located in the northeast at the Furley Recreation Center. The network of monitors in the state allows MDE to track air pollution levels, and to share the information with the public at www.air-watch.net.

[Click to view the MDE press release.](#)

Public Participation Plan Open for Public Comment



The public is invited to review and comment on the 2006 Draft Participation Plan. The Baltimore Regional Transportation Board is interested in what you think about the draft public participation plan. A public review period will be held from Monday, August 28, 2006 through Thursday, October 12, 2006.

To share your thoughts and ideas, please attend the public meeting on September 28th or submit comments. For more information, please contact Monica Haines at 410-732-0500 x1047 or mhaines@baltometro.org.

[Click to find out more about the Draft Participation Plan.](#)

BRTB Approves Conformity Determination of the FY 07-11 TIP and 2004 Plan

At their August 22nd meeting the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board approved a resolution for the Conformity Determination of the 2004 Baltimore Regional Transportation Plan and the FY 2007-2011 Transportation Improvement Program. The Conformity Determination went through a public review period earlier in the summer, and it was approved by the Interagency Consultation Group, prior to BRTB approval.

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