

# Electric buses expected to return to Clemson this week

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CLEMSON — Clemson Area Transit officials are expecting to get 10 new electric buses back this week after they were sent back to manufacturer Proterra for repairs.

General manager Keith Moody said Monday that Proterra officials said “a sensor grounding against a bracket” was causing the problems for the 10 new electric buses.

“Proterra has modified the buses, and we will get them back this week,” he said.

Moody expects the buses to be back in time for a ribbon-cutting ceremony from 2-4 p.m. Thursday at CATbus West Lane headquarters.

Moody said five electric buses had to be sent back to Proterra last month after issues were discovered during the testing phase. Moody said at the time the bus driver reported the bus would turn itself off and attributed it to electrical interference in the shielding of the wire.

He added Proterra planned to go back and retrofit all 10 of the new buses even

though the problem was only reported on half of them.

A federal grant funded 10 buses for Clemson. The buses are 40-foot zero-emission vehicles, and the color scheme selected by Clemson City Council features a predominantly purple color with orange trim. The buses are set to replace 10 diesel buses for CAT's service area, which includes Central and Pendleton along with Clemson.

Moody said last month that electric buses have a 15-day testing period and are accepted if everything goes well during that period. However, re-testing is required if the buses have to be pulled off the route for any reason.

The Clemson agreement with Proterra is for more than \$9 million — about \$3 million less than originally projected due to equipment and construction of the charging stations at CAT headquarters. Under the agreement, Clemson has the option to purchase 29 electric buses in addition to the 10 set to return this week.

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