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A \$2.3 million grant from the U.S. Department of TransportationbizWatch will help the New Castle Transit Authority buy 12 new hybrid-electric buses.

The award, part of the stimulus-backed Transit Investments for Greenhouse Gas and Energy Reductions (TIGGER) program, was announced late Tuesday by U.S. Rep. Jason Altmire, D-4. The \$2.3 million will go toward the projected \$7.2 million cost for the 12 buses, said transit authority assistant manager Vicki Antonio. The remaining money comes from state funding.

The first five buses, which will likely be ordered within the year, should arrive in New Castle sometime in 2012. The remainder will be ordered afterward.

The hybrid electric buses will be placed into service around New Castle, as the new buses use electricity for short stops and then diesel fuel after about 30 mph. There are 33 buses and two trolleys in the New Castle Transit Authority fleet now.

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