

Joint Office of Energy and Transportation

## **Electric School Bus Familiarization Webinar Series** Module 2: ESB Technical Overview

driveelectric.gov

8/7/2024



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## Disclaimer

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## **Mission and Vision**







Energy and Transportation

### Mission

To accelerate an electrified transportation system that is affordable, convenient, equitable, reliable, and safe.

#### Vision

A future where everyone can ride and drive electric.



# **BIL Programs Supported by the Joint Office**

The Joint Office will provide unifying guidance, technical assistance, and analysis to support the following programs:



National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program (U.S. DOT) \$5 billion for states to build a national electric vehicle (EV) charging network along corridors

Charging & Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Discretionary Grant Program (U.S. DOT) \$2.5 billion in community and corridor grants for EV charging, as well as hydrogen, natural gas, and propane fueling infrastructure



Low-No Emissions Grants Program for Transit (U.S. DOT)

\$5.6 billion in support of low- and no-emission transit bus deployments

Clean School Bus Program (U.S. EPA)

\$5 billion in support of electric school bus deployments



#### **Clean School Bus Technical Assistance** Joint Office of **SEPA Energy** and U.S. DEPARTMENT OF Office of ENERGY EFFICIENC

The Joint Office of Energy and Transportation (Joint Office) is providing **FREE** technical assistance for the EPA's Clean School Bus program

Technical Assistance Offerings:

- Fleets receiving funds or planning to apply are eligible
- Proactive and reactive, hands-on assistance tailored to each fleet
- New and updated tools and resources.



## **Clean School Bus Technical Assistance**

<u>CleanSchoolBusTA@nrel.gov</u> driveelectric.gov/contact



## **Examples of How We Can Help**

#### Electric utility coordination

Identifying available funding and incentives

Conducting training and workforce development

#### Bus evaluation

Analyzing charging infrastructure needs

Conducting route analysis and planning

Analyzing energy needs and grid impact

Identifying solar and battery storage opportunities







New Electric School Bus Familiarization Webinar Series Brought to you by:

- Joint Office of Energy and Transportation
- National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)
- International Transportation Learning Center (ITLC)
- School bus manufacturers

- Four-part module-based series for operators, technicians, and other school bus fleet members.
- Learn fundamentals of electric school bus (ESB) technology.



- Live Q&A during each session.
- Recordings with testing materials for internal training programs.

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Introduction from Ryan Frasier, National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)

**Presentations** moderated by the International Transportation Learning Center (ITLC) with Q&A after each presentation

- Fundamentals of ESB Technology
  - Angel Yin, BYD-Ride
- ESB Preventive Maintenance & Diagnostics
  - Mark Richardson, Thomas Bus/Daimler Truck
- ESB ESS Overview and Battery Management
  - Sean Ashcraft, Greenpower Motor Company



## **Today's Moderator**



#### John Schiavone International Transportation Learning Center (ITLC)



#### **2024 Sessions**



## **Fundamentals Of Electric School** Buses









- Organized similar webinar series for transit buses
- Purpose provide introductory information

## ITLC Mission – advance training on joint labor-management basis





### **Topics for Today**



- **Presentation 1 Fundamentals of ESB Technology** Angel Yin, Policy Analyst
- **Presentation 2**
- **Presentation 3**





## **ESB Preventive Maintenance & Diagnostics**

Mark Richardson, Charging Infrastructure eConsultant

### **ESB ESS Overview and Battery Management**

Sean Ashcraft, Electrical Engineer





### Key Terms

<b>CAN (Controller Area Network)</b> Vehicle data communication	<b>Charging Port</b> Accepts external charging plug
DC-DC Converter Converts DC HV to lower DC voltages as needed	<b>ESS (Energy Storage System)</b> 400-900V DC battery pack
HVJB (High Voltage Junction Box) Protected HV connections	<b>Inverter</b> Converts DC HV to AC
Traction Motor	V2G (Vehicle-to-Grid)
Uses AC to power vehicle (replaces ICE)	Uses bus to supply grid, other AC sources
	Vehicle data communicationDC-DC ConverterConverts DC HV to lower DC voltages as neededHVJB (High Voltage Junction Box)Protected HV connectionsTraction MotorUses AC to power vehicle (replaces)









# Presentation 1 **Fundamentals of ESB Technology**



### Learning Outcomes

- Define an Electric School Bus (ESB)
- Identify key High Voltage (HV) ESB propulsion system components
- Discuss principles of operation for key HV components
- Identify key Low Voltage (LV) ESB Telematics & V2G components
- Compare similarities and differences with ICE School Buses



## What is an Electric School Bus (ESB)?

## **Defining a Battery Electric School Bus**

#### A vehicle is a *Battery Electric Vehicle* if:

- Its propulsion system is **powered only by batteries**
- The vehicle **runs on electricity** only
- These batteries are charged by an **external power source**

#### **Key features of an ESB:**

- The absence of internal combustion-related components  ${\bullet}$
- The presence of high-voltage (HV) electric propulsion systems
- The power battery provides the driving force for the entire  $\bullet$ vehicle and accessories

#### Battery Electric Vehicle (EV)



Internal Combustion Engine (ICE)







## **ESB Component Identification**

## High-Voltage (HV)

#### **Safety First!**

For automotive applications, any voltage greater than 30 volts **AC (or 60 volts DC)** is considered high or hazardous voltage

Most ESBs in the market use HV systems (400V-900V) to operate major vehicle components including motors, controllers, AC, etc.

Proper care and tools must be taken when operating and servicing this type of vehicle

Electric Propulsion Systems require an AR rated Category 2 **level PPE** with an 8 cal/cm<sup>2</sup> minimum protection

#### **A DANGER** Electric arc flash hazard. Will cause severe injury or death. Wear proper protective equipmen before operating or performing diagnostic measurements while energized. (See NFPA 70E) PPE CATEGORY 3 PPE CATEGORY 2

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## **ESB Component Identification**

### Overview of Electric Propulsion – Key HV Systems & Power Flow



#### **Charging interface**

Connected via charging plugs to the charging ports on the side of each bus

Charging can include either AC or DC current

**Electric Power Control Unit** 2 (include DC-AC Inverter & DC-DC **Converter; may be standalone)** 

#### A bi-directional inverter capable of charging and discharging

Manages HV battery modules via HV cables, converts AC to DC to charge batteries and invert DC to AC to power drive motors and other accessories



#### **Energy Storage System (ESS)**

The central power unit of the vehicle

Consists of DC batteries converted by the motor controller to AC

#### **Electric Drive Motor**

#### **Provides the power to move the** vehicle

AC from the motor controller is converted to mechanical energy and directed to traction motor(s) for smooth and quiet operation





### High-Voltage (HV) Electrical System Components Bus Layout





## HV Electrical System Component – Charging Interface



#### **Charging Port**

Charging the HV batteries is a safe operation. PPE is not required to charge the bus. There are 2 common charging ports: AC & DC.

#### **Onboard Charger (for AC Charger)**

The OBC converts AC current coming from a charging station to DC current to charge the HV batteries. It is liquid-cooled.



SAE J1772 AC CHARGING GUN (≤19.2kW)



CCS 1.0 Combination CHARGING GUN (up to 350kW)









## HV Electrical System Component – ESS System



electric vehicle. The bus battery pack contains cells, enclosed in modules, connected in series to form a pack

Common composition of battery is Lithiumion or Lithium-ion Phosphate (LFP)

Generally, larger battery size = longer range

High-voltage contactors control the current flow from the battery packs Usually several contractors installed in the bus, acting as a switch and battery safety components

#### **Power Battery Modules**

#### The battery system is the power source of

#### **HV Battery Pack Contactors**



Cell







Vehicle Pack

Pack

#### HV Electrical System Component – ESS System







Cell

Module

Module cel

Physical connection

Signal transportation





#### If a driver notices low SOC on route they should:

- 1. Immediately turn off all non-critical electrical loads or unload if convenient
- 2. Rigorously use regenerative braking, minimal usage of the accelerator, drive at minimum safe speed
- 3. Stop in a safe area and tow the vehicle to a charger



## HV Electrical System Component – Motor & Auxiliary Controller

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Motor & Accessories Controller (may include DC-AC Inverter & DC-DC Converter, or standalone)

The inverter converts DC from the batteries to AC current to power the traction motor and accessories

The converter converts DC HV from ESS to power low voltage (12v and 24v) devices (lights, horns, etc.)

For some OEMs, the inverter, converter, and management components are integrated into one box, a controller, to power both HV and LV systems



## HV Electrical System Component – HV Distribution System



#### **High-Voltage Cable**

All high-voltage cables are identified with an ORANGE cable covering. Cables are used for AC or DC high-voltage power



#### **High-Voltage Service Plug**

A circuit breaker within the HV power supply circuit used to used to physically disconnect and de-energize the HV system





### HV Electrical System Component – Drive Motor & Axle Assembly





### HV Electrical System Components – AC - Driven Accessories





### Low Voltage (LV) System – DC-DC Converter

A low-voltage electrical circuit operates on 12 or 24 volts. LV circuits require a power source (battery) to provide electrical energy to activate a circuit. The LV system operates vehicle management components including dashboards, lights, accessories, telematics, etc.

ESBs normally have a standalone DC-DC step-down converter or a converter in an integrated controller to convert HV to LV and power the LV system. Also have two separate 12V or one 24V rechargeable battery to power the LV system when HV is not engaged

Buses normally have a front and rear power distribution box, with a low voltage power disconnect switch between the batteries and power distribution boxes for lockout tagout (LOTO)







### LV System Components – Telematics

#### **Electronic Control Unit (ECU)**

An embedded system in the vehicle's components to control one or more electrical systems in the vehicles

ECUs are the source of vehicle telematics, and collectively referred to as the vehicle's computer. A vehicle can include multiple ECUs

Examples of ECUs include: <u>Battery Management Controller (BMC)</u> which manages and receives all battery information, or <u>Vehicle Control Module (VCM)</u> which manages throttle accelerator signals and gear selection position signals

ECUs are interconnected by the Controller Area Network (CAN) and Multiplex (MPX) for communication and monitorization; Information is collected by the telematics/management devices

#### **Electrical Load Management System (ELMS)**

Software based operation uses controller above; Charging management solution for fleet to manage how & when they charge vehicles





#### **Electric Vehicle Communication Controller (EVCC)**

EVCC provides communication information for Grid to Vehicle and Vehicle to Grid (V2G) charging events

Communicates with the EVSE regarding current discharging



### Vehicle to Grid (V2G) Functionality



Cloud Management AC Current **AC Current** 

**DC Fast Charger** (Embedded with an Inverter to convert DC to AC current)



## **ESB vs. ICE School Buses**

### Similarities & Differences

Engine System Exhaust System Fuel System	Completely Customized	HV Propulsion System
	]	
Chassis System	Modified	Chassis System
Driveline System		Driveline System
Electrical/Power Supply System		Electrical/Power Supply System
Body System		Body System
Suspension System		Suspension System
Brake System		Brake System
Steering System	Common	Steering System
Climate Control System		Climate Control System
Gauge and Warning System		Gauge and Warning System
Communications System		Communications System
Lighting System		Lighting System
Interior System		Interior System
Public Interface		Public Interface







#### Quieter

Electric motors provide much quieter rides than ICE buses.



#### **Cleaner Power Source**

ESBs use electricity whereas traditional ICE buses rely on petroleum-based fuels.



#### **No Tailpipe Emissions**

ESBs do not have a tailpipe and do not emit exhaust.



#### **Regenerative Braking**

When braking, ESBs reverse the electric motor, recapturing and storing energy. More efficient.



#### Vehicle to Everything

ESBs have the ability to send extra electricity back to the grid or buildings during emergency.











## Presentation 2 **ESB Preventive** Maintenance & Diagnostics



# Mark Richardson









### Learning Outcomes

- electric buses
- Recall high voltage safety fundamentals
- Recognize example maintenance schedules
- Identify diagnostic approaches
- specifics might vary depending on the OEM

#### Describe the fundamentals of maintaining and troubleshooting battery

# Analyze examples based on typical use cases and best practices, though



## **High Voltage Safety**

- Components operate at dangerous voltage levels
- Failure to follow HV instructions can be severe
- Consult OEM manuals
- Only trained persons should work on HV components





### **High Voltage Preventive Maintenance**

- Based on average vehicle use and typical conditions
- Customer should determine maintenance intervals
- Only trained persons should perform scheduled HV maintenance




### **ICE Tasks Not Applicable to ESBs**

Title of Maintonanae Operation	Maintenance Intervals						
Title of Maintenance Operation	IM - 4Kmi/6mo	4Kmi/6mo	8Kmi/6mo	16Kmi/12mo	32Kmi/24mo	48Kmi/30mo	
Engine Drive Belt Inspecting				•	•	•	
Engine Support Fastener Checking					•		
Air Cleaner Element Inspecting and Replacing	•	٠	•	•	•	•	
Air Compressor Filter Replacement, Propane Engine				•			
Fan Drive Inspection (Noise Emission Control)			•	•	•	•	
Coolant Heater Check			•	•	•	•	
Clutch Release Bearing Lubricating	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Clutch Release Cross-Shaft Lubricating	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Clutch Hydraulic Fluid Level Checking		•	•	•	•	•	
Clutch Hydraulic Fluid Changing					•		
Electronic Clutch Actuator (ECA) Lubrication	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Manual Transmission Oil Level Checking		•	•	•		•	
Transmission Fluid Changing and Magnetic Plug Cleaning							
Transmission Breather Checking		•	•	•	•	•	
Transmission Fluid and Filter Changing							
Automatic Tire Chain System Checking							
Off-Season Chain Wheel Removal							
Air Dryer AD-9 or AD-IP Desiccant Replacing						•	
Hydraulic Brake Lining Wear Checking	•	٠	•	•	•	•	
Brake Lines and Fittings Inspecting, Hydraulic Brakes	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Power Steering Fluid Level Inspecting	•	•	•	•		•	
Fuel Tank Band Nut Tightening	•						
Fuel/Water Separator Element Replacing					•		
Inline Fuel Strainer Replacing			•	•	•	•	
Fuel Sender Checking			•	•	•	•	
Fuel Tank and Line Inspecting, Propane Engine					•		
Fuel Rail Fitting and Injector Inspecting, Propane Engine					•		
Fuel Filter Replacing, Propane Engine					•		
CNG Fuel System Inspection			•	•	•	•	
CNG Fuel Filter Replacement		٠	•	•	•	•	
CNG Fuel Cylinder Inspection				•	•	•	
Exhaust System Inspecting (Noise Emission Control)			•	•	•	•	







### Major Components





### **Major Components Continued**







### **PM Schedule**



- Initial Maintenance (IM): 4,000mi or 6mo
- Maintenance 1 (M1): 4,000mi or 6mo
- Maintenance 2 (M2): 8,000mi or 12mo
- Maintenance 3 (M3): 16,000mi or 18mo
- Maintenance 4 (M4): 32,000mi or 24mo
- Maintenance 5 (M5): 48,000mi or 36mo



### Maintenance 1 (M1) – Every 4,000 Miles or 6 Months

### Air Compressor Filter Replacement - EV







Ancillary Bay Desiccant Plug Inspection and Replacement - EV





### Maintenance 2 (M2) – Every 8,000 Miles or 12 Months

### **Title of Maintenance Operation**

Torque Mark Inspection - EV

Electric Motor Inspection - EV

**Transmission Inspection - EV** 

Air Compressor Filter Replacement - EV

Coolant System Maintenance - EV

Transmission Fluid Level Checking - EV

Power Steering Motor Lubrication - EV

Charge Port Inspection - EV

Ancillary Bay Desiccant Plug Inspection/Replacement - EV

Battery Pack Desiccant Replacement - EV





### Maintenance 3 (M3) – Every 16,000 Miles or 18 Months

### Air Compressor Filter Replacement - EV







Ancillary Bay Desiccant Plug Inspection and Replacement - EV





### Maintenance 4 (M4) – Every 32,000 Miles or 24 Months

### **Title of Maintenance Operation**

Torque Mark Inspection - EV

Electric Motor Inspection - EV

**Transmission Inspection - EV** 

Air Compressor Filter Replacement - EV

Coolant System Maintenance - EV

Transmission Fluid Level Checking - EV

Power Steering Motor Lubrication - EV

Charge Port Inspection - EV

Ancillary Bay Desiccant Plug Inspection/Replacement - EV

Battery Pack Desiccant Replacement - EV





### Maintenance 5 (M5) – Every 48,000 Miles or 36 Months

### Air Compressor Filter Replacement - EV

### Power Steering Motor Lubrication - EV





Ancillary Bay Desiccant Plug Inspection and Replacement - EV





### **Every 60,000 Miles:**

• Air Compressor Oil Separator **Element and Main Seal Replacement - EV** 

### **Every 36 Months:**

 Transmission Fluid Changing - EV







### PM Schedule Overview – EV Specific

	Maintenance Intervals						
Title of Maintenance Operation	IM - 4Kmi/6mo	M1 - 4Kmi/6mo	M2 - 8Kmi/6mo	M3 - 16Kmi/12mo	M4 - 32Kmi/24mo	M5 - 48Kmi/30mo	
Torque Mark Inspection - EV			•		•		
Electric Motor Inspection - EV			•		•		
Transmission Inspection - EV			•		•		
Air Compressor Oil Separator Element and Main Seal Replacement - EV			Every	60,000 miles			
Air Compressor Filter Replacement - EV		•	•	•	•	•	
Coolant System Maintenance - EV			•		•		
Transmission Fluid Level Checking - EV			•		•		
Transmission Fluid Changing - EV		•	Every	y <b>36 months</b>		•	
Power Steering Motor Lubrication - EV		•	•	•	•	•	
Charge Port Inspection, Electric Vehicle			•		•		
Ancillary Bay Desiccant Plug Inspection and Replacement - EV		•	•	•	•	•	
Battery Pack Desiccant Replacement - EV			•		•		





### **Diagnostic Troubleshooting**

### Powertrain Diagnostic Software

- Requires OEM specific program & software
- Battery Diagnostic Software
  - Requires OEM specific program & software

### ✓ Typical Fault & Troubleshooting Approach

- Confirm compliant, diagnose fault, apply **Corrective Action**
- Data Logging







### **Diagnostic Troubleshooting**

• Powertrain Dongle

• Laptop







### **ESB Diagnostic Tool**



System Req	uirements
Hard Drive	500MB Free Space
<b>Graphics Hardware</b>	Intel 5000 IG or >
*PDT is compatible with	Nexiq USB-Link 2

System Re	quirements
Operating System	Win 10 - 64 bit or >
CPU	Intel Core i5 or >
Memory	8 GB RAM
Available Regen 196 kW Vehicle State Drive Vehicle SW Version 10,1 Vehicle Speed 0 mph PRNDL	
Inverter	A 0 rpm Gear 1 Fdbk
Parking Brake	Stator Temp E Gear 2 Cmd 61'F Gear 2 Fdbk











### Presentation 3 **ESB ESS Overview** and Battery Management

# Sean Ashcraft









### Learning Outcomes

- Define E.S.B. Energy Storage System (E.S.S.)
- Define cells, modules, and pack(s)
- Describe why a Battery Management System (BMS) is needed
- Describe why a Battery Thermal Management System (BTMS) is needed

em (E.S.S.)



### **ESB Energy Storage System**

### Energy Storage System (ESS)

- —
- —



Used in various forms, but generally means the complete battery pack system ESS is a combination of cells that mechanically and electrically connected, along with appropriate thermal, electronics, and mechanical structure to house the entire unit



**ICE Diesel Fuel Tank** 



### Cells, Modules, Pack(s)

Commonly battery cell chemistry is Lithium Iron Phosphate (LFP).

A single cell has a nominal voltage of 3.2VDC

Some design factors that dictate the capacity (kWh) of the ESS are:

- Range
- Voltage
- Performance
- Weight constraints



Module with 8 Cells connected in series



- Individual Cells are connected in a series/parallel arrangement
- This forms a Module
- Modules are connected in a series/parallel arrangement
- This forms a Pack
- There may be multiple packs connected in series



### Cells, Modules, Pack(s) Cont.

### Total number of packs installed on a vehicle will vary between OEMs





### **Battery Management System (BMS)**

### What is it and why is it needed?

### The BMS ensures the safety and life of the ESS by:

- Measuring cell voltage and temperature -
- Measuring ESS current, isolation resistance -
- Dictates charging/discharging limits -
- Calculating SOC & remaining range
- Control ancillary HV loads -
- HVIL (High Voltage Inter-Lock) Monitoring -





Examples of Prismatic LFP Cells that were overcharged, and as a result are permanently damaged.





### **Battery Management System (BMS)**





### Why is a Battery Thermal Management System Needed?

within the battery cells, allowing electrons to move

- Chemical process can be negatively effected by extreme ambient temperatures
- Cannot be charged when LFP cell temps are < 0°C, and >55°C —
- BTMS is a system incorporated into the ESS by the OEM to mitigate these extreme temperatures within the battery packs
- Common BTMS components: Refrigerant, Compressors, Pumps, Heat Exchangers, -Valves, Fans
- All automatically controlled by the BMS system -

When the ESS is required to charge or discharge, a chemical process takes place



### Why is a Battery Thermal Management System Needed?





### Why is a Battery Thermal Management System Needed?

### How Temperature Effects LFP Discharge Performance



The cells useable capacity is reduced as a result of the extreme temperatures

Cell performance and longevity will also be reduced







### **Register for ESB Familiarization Webinars**

Webinar topics:

- Module 1: Operator Overview (April 10)
- Module 2: Electric School Bus Technology Overview (August 7)
- \*Module 3: High Voltage Safety Considerations
  - \*Module 4: Charging Considerations

### \*Registration for Modules 3 and 4 coming soon!

## Register at: driveelectric.gov/webinars



### Thank you!

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### *Today's Presentation:* Module 2: ESB Technical Overview

### Joint Office of Energy and Transportation

The webinar recording and slides will be posted within a few weeks here: **driveelectric.gov/webinars** 

