

VALLO TRANSPORTATION SEEKS FEDERAL GRANT TO HELP PAY FOR CLEANER-RUNNING DIESEL BUSES TO SERVE QUEENS, BRONX

Wants to buy seven new buses with lower emissions than existing ones

Queens, N.Y. (Jan. 2011) – Vallo Transportation Ltd., an independent school bus company serving families throughout Queens, N.Y., today announced that it has applied for a federal grant that will let the company buy seven new buses with advanced low-emissions technology.

“Engine manufacturers and oil refiners have made tremendous progress creating equipment and fuel that cause much lower emissions than in the past,” said company President Linda DeSabato.

“The new equipment is very expensive, though, which is why we haven’t been able to introduce it to our fleet as quickly as we would have liked,” said DeSabato, whose family-owned company has served Queens schoolchildren for about 30 years. “The federal grant we hope to receive will make the new buses affordable and let us bring low-emissions buses to Queens and the Bronx. This will benefit the children who ride our buses and the entire community.”

The grant, if approved, will be used to help Vallo purchase seven 2012 International school buses equipped with Maxx Force DT 466 engines. The engines comply with latest federal emission standards. They will replace buses that date back to 1997 and 1998. The total cost of these buses is \$904,825; of which 25 percent would be funded by the grant. In a further ecological benefit, the new buses will be equipped with interior heaters independent from the main engine, which will minimize unnecessary idling time during the winter.

“Every little bit helps when it comes to protecting the environment,” DeSabato said. “Diesel technology is constantly evolving, and we’re committed to keeping pace. It’s good for our community.”

The grants are available under the National Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program, a federal program intended to reduce air pollution. A decision is expected to be announced in the spring.

Vallo operates a fleet of more than 50 buses that carry children living in Queens and Manhattan to private schools and magnet schools in Manhattan and the Bronx, such as the Bronx High School of Science, one of the nation’s most respected schools. Summer service is available for most routes. Charter service is offered for field trips, community organizations and other events.