

FEATHER RIVER RAIL SOCIETY

DATE: May 2024
ITEM: New Business Item 1
FROM: Charles White

PROPOSED DONATION OF TOUR BUS

Member Charles White owns a 2005 Bluebird diesel bus that was used for long distance commuter service and is set up more like a tour style bus. He is proposing donating this to the FRRS for use in Society events.

The bus has a Cat D7 diesel with relatively low miles for this model engine. It seats about 37 and is equipped with a wheelchair lift. It has baggage racks in the ceiling.

See photos below to review condition. Charles will be on the meeting call to answer questions, including expected operating / insurance costs.

SUGGESTED USES

Often during annual conventions we have had to reserve tour buses for our events. These are an increasingly expense proposition and sometimes it has been very difficult to find an appropriate bus. While we would be limited to 1,000 miles when holding a convention in a CARB covered county, we would have unlimited miles in a non-CARB county or events outside California.

Another option would be transporting groups of visitors from Reno to the museum for special events. We have often had groups holding events in Reno (N scale convention and narrow gauge convention are two recent ones) and they wished to hold events at the museum. We could expand this offering with reliable large group transportation.

When / if we establish an operation in Loyalton, this bus could be used for transport between the two location. Similarly, it could replace the tug and trailer operation for events in Portola and allow transport between Blairsden / Graeagle and the museum when events happen there.

We could offer a monthly Railroad History Tour of the Sierra Valley area as an add-on attraction with admission to the museum. Driver and tour guide would run a route from Portola, down to Loyalton, out to Hallelujah Junction and return to Portola showcasing the railroad history and remaining artifacts /



locations in the area. This could be primary funding to maintain bus and add additional revenue to museum.



REQUESTED ACTION

The Board review the proposal and consider donation offer.



