US: Keolis awarded a new 5-year bus contract in Loudoun County, Virginia, extending its footprint in the region

On 29 January 2021, Keolis was awarded a five-year contract by Loudoun County to operate and maintain a bus network in Loudoun County, Virginia, starting 1 April 2021.

Worth approximately €83 million, this new contract further strengthens Keolis’ multimodal presence in Virginia, where it already operates a bus network and the Virginia Railway Express (VRE) commuter rail.

It also represents another step in the growth of Keolis’ footprint in North America, where the Group also operates commuter rail, tram, and bus networks, as well as on-demand transport and paratransit services.

Bernard Tabary, CEO International at Keolis Group, said: “We are pleased to partner with Loudoun County and serve its communities through shared and equitable mobility. This new partnership underscores our localized growth and reputation as a trusted operator in Virginia. Loudoun County can be assured that we will combine our multimodal experience to provide reliable, safe and comfortable transport solutions to its residents and visitors, while enhancing the passenger experience.”

A bus network to serve 415,000 residents in Loudoun County

On 29 January 2021, Keolis was awarded the operation and maintenance of the Loudoun County’s bus network, currently operated by two operators, starting 1 April 2021 for a period of five years1.

The 28-line network2 encompasses several cities including Ashburn, Sterling, Leesburg, Purcellville, Hamilton, Stone Ridge and South Riding. It connects residents to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) Silver Line, Arlington bus network, MARC commuter trains, as well as the VRE, operated by Keolis.

The Group will operate and maintain 117 buses. 64 commuter buses3 made by Motor Coach Industries (MCI) seating 55 passengers, 16 12-metre long Gillig-made buses and 37 Ford Cutaway buses for fixed route and paratransit services.

The services provided by Keolis are expected to carry 1.6 million passengers annually.

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1 with one five-year option extension
2 4 commuter bus routes; 12 Local bus routes; 12 Metro Connection routes.
3 MCI D4500
Several factors contributed to Keolis being selected as top-ranked operator in Loudoun County’s competitive procurement process, including its expertise in enhancing maintenance processes and passenger experience across its global operations.

Improvements to the passenger experience aimed at restoring ridership to pre-Covid levels include better punctuality and stepped-up vehicle cleaning and disinfection.

Keolis will welcome some 120 new employees from the two existing operators ahead of the operational launch of the Loudoun County bus network on 1 April 2021. The handover between operators is underway with the aim of providing a smooth transition before the introduction of new measures to meet the evolving needs of passengers in the community.

**Keolis in North America**

Winning this contract expands Keolis’ footprint in North America where it has been present since 2002.

In the U.S., Keolis has won extensions to its contracts to operate commuter trains serving Boston (MBTA) and Washington, DC (VRE). and the surrounding areas. In July 2020 Keolis won a new bus contract in Prince William County, Virginia, followed by a new bus contract in San Bernardino County, California, in September 2020. Both networks were launched in the same year4.

In Canada, Keolis recently had its contract to run a bus network in Greater Montreal renewed for an additional 10 years. The company launched its first North American tram operation in Waterloo, Ontario, more than a year ago.

In North America, Keolis operates commuter rail services, a tram network, bus networks, paratransit services and real-time on-demand transport services in 21 cities and employs 6,300 people.

**About Keolis**

Keolis is a pioneer in developing public transport systems and works alongside public authorities who want to enhance shared mobility systems to grow the appeal and vitality of their regions. A world leader in operating automated metro and tramway systems, Keolis and its partners and subsidiaries Kisio, EFFIA, Keolis Santé and Cykleo support the core business with innovations offering new and bespoke shared mobility solutions for modes including trains, buses and coaches, trolleybuses, shared car solutions, river and sea shuttle services, bike share services, car sharing, fully electric driverless shuttles and urban cable cars. In France, Keolis is the second largest provider of parking management solutions through its subsidiary EFFIA, and the country’s leader in medical transport since the creation of Keolis Santé in July 2017. The Group is 70%-owned by SNCF and 30%-owned by the Caisse de Dépôt et Placement du Québec (Quebec Deposit and Investment Fund) and employs 88,500 people in 15 countries. In 2019, it posted revenue of €6.6 billion. In 2019, 3.4 billion passengers used one of Keolis’ shared mobility services. [www.keolis.com](http://www.keolis.com)

* Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, Denmark, France, Germany, India, the Netherlands, Norway, Qatar, Senegal, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States.

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4 November 1st and October 1st, respectively
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