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Micro Bird G5/D-Series Successfully Passes FTA Altoona Testing



Hello All,

We are pleased to share an important milestone for Micro Bird—and for you.

Our Micro Bird G5/D-Series has successfully passed the FTA Altoona testing program for a 7-year / 200,000-mile service life. This achievement applies to both our commercial and school bus product

lines and represents a major step forward in federal funding eligibility and long-term fleet confidence.

This successful testing milestone reinforces the Micro Bird G5/D-Series as a safe, reliable, and federally eligible solution for transit, commercial, and school bus applications.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or would like to discuss how this impacts your fleet.

Micro Bird G5/D-Series Altoona Report Highlights

Key results from the Altoona testing include:

- **Safety & Handling:** Passed all safety tests, including double-lane change up to 45 mph and full braking evaluations (dry, wet, split-friction, and parking brake on a 20% grade).
- **Structural Integrity:** Successfully completed the 7,500-mile accelerated durability program with no uncorrected safety-critical failures. Distortion, jacking, hoisting, and towing tests showed no structural damage.
- **Reliability & Maintainability:** Major components were easily accessible, with key service items (starter, alternator, wiper motor, batteries) replaced in one hour or less—helping minimize downtime.
- **Comfort & Efficiency:** Delivered competitive fuel economy across multiple transit cycles and demonstrated low interior and exterior noise levels with no unusual vibrations or rattles.

What Is Altoona Testing?

Altoona bus testing is a mandatory federal requirement for transit vehicles purchased with Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding. Established in 1987 under the Surface Transportation and Uniform Relocation Assistance Act (STURAA), this comprehensive program ensures transit buses meet strict safety, performance, and durability standards.

Testing is conducted at the **Larson Transportation Institute's Bus Research and Testing Center** in Altoona, Pennsylvania. Since 1989, this facility has been the sole authorized testing center for evaluating new bus models prior to eligibility for FTA-funded purchases. A new bus model must successfully complete Altoona testing and receive a passing score before the first unit can be purchased using FTA grant funding.



Why Altoona Testing Matters for Your Fleet

Passing Altoona testing is critical for several reasons:

- **Federal Funding Eligibility:** Vehicles must pass testing to qualify for FTA-funded purchases
- **Safety Assurance:** Confirms compliance with rigorous safety standards

- **Performance Verification:** Provides objective, third-party performance data
- **Durability Confirmation:** Simulates years of service to predict long-term reliability
- **Peace of Mind:** Gives you confidence that the vehicle is proven to withstand the real-world conditions your fleet operates in every day.

The Eight Core Testing Categories

Each vehicle undergoes comprehensive evaluation in the following areas:

1. Structural Integrity and Durability
2. Safety (including brake performance)
3. Maintainability (including accessibility)
4. Reliability
5. Performance
6. Fuel/Energy Economy
7. Noise (interior and exterior)
8. Emissions

CONTACT US WITH ANY QUESTIONS YOU HAVE!

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