Santa Fe Trails’ transit riders travel historic routes in all-CNG bus fleet

For centuries, the old Santa Fe Trail and the Old Pecos trail have wound through the oldest town in the United States — Santa Fe, New Mexico.

And today, the Santa Fe Trails (SFT) public transit bus system — the first all-compressed natural gas (CNG)-fueled metropolitan transit fleet in the nation — travels these same historic routes, providing an average of 50,000 passenger trips a month.

The SFT fleet includes 30 CNG-powered 55-passenger buses operating on nine routes seven days a week. The buses return nightly to SFT headquarters to fill up with CNG fuel supplied by Clean Energy.

Santa Fe is situated more than 7,000 feet above sea level in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. The air is pristine, the summers are warm and the winters are cold. But high altitude and cold weather present no performance obstacles to the CNG buses.

“We’ve been able to provide predictably reliable service for our riders ever since our founding, with next to no downtime caused by fuel issues,” said Colin Messer, Energy Planning Program Manager for the State of New Mexico’s Energy Conservation and Management Division. Messer helped launch Santa Fe Trails in 1992, and chairs the line’s advisory committee.

CNG is cleaner-burning and less expensive than diesel fuel. “Plus CNG is domestically sourced, which means that our bus line can play a role in helping increase America’s energy independence,” Messer said.

“With CNG, we save considerable money, help clean the air, curb greenhouse gas emissions, and reduce dependence on imported oil — all at the same time. It was clear to us right from the start that CNG buses would be the best choice for us,” he added.

“And 16 years of proven, reliable transit service to the people of Santa Fe have more than validated our decision.”

— Colin Messer
Energy Program Manager,
New Mexico Energy Conservation and Management Division

It saves money, too.

Oldest US town uses cleanest US fuel for the purest of reasons.

REAL NGV USERS. REAL REASONS.
To find out how your fleet can benefit from natural gas, call John Somers at Clean Energy, North America’s leader in clean transportation: 562.493.2804.