

Will Proterra LLC soon call Mooresville home?

Proterra and its partners design, develop and manufacture battery dominant hybrid- and battery-electric drive solutions and complete vehicles for commercial applications including: transit, school and commercial buses; parcel delivery vehicles and other Class 4-8 trucks.

Proterra was founded in 2004 by Dale Hill and the other principals who designed, engineered and led the manufacture of the 36 EcoMark I, 45' CNG-fueled hybrid-electric shuttle buses which were built for the famous Denver 16th Street Mall.

The fleet has logged over 3 million miles and has carried over 150 million passengers, making it the largest and most successful alternative fueled hybrid-electric vehicle transit bus fleet anywhere in the world.

Mooresville has been in discussions with Hill since May 2008 about the potential of Proterra LLC to build a transit vehicle factory in Mooresville. Initially the Mooresville plant will employ 200 but Proterra LLC estimates that they will employ 500 by 2015, not counting collocated suppliers.

Hill will present the case for hydrolleys (wireless hydrogen streetcars) at the Charlotte Research Institute's Fifth International Hydrail Conference June 11-12, 2009.

www.hydrail.org



Hydrolleys—wireless fuel cell powered streetcars—are a potential product. Proterra LLC's interest in Mooresville stems from the town's international role in originating the Hydrail Conferences and in advocating wireless hydrolleys.

Hydrail promises emissions-free electric transit without overhead power. If Proterra LLC comes to North Carolina, hydrogen rail technology could serve as a cornerstone of the new clean energy transportation infrastructure envisioned by North Carolina Gov. Bev Perdue and President Barack Obama.