

High Road to Electric Bus Manufacturing in Los Angeles County: BYD-SMART

An Initiative of the California Workforce Development Board

California Workforce Development Board is paving the way for a High Road transportation sector and a greener future starting with the electric bus manufacturing industry in California’s largest county. This project will bring together a major electric bus manufacturer and employer, BYD Coach and Bus, with the union representing the workers at their production facility, the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers (SMART) Local 105, in a partnership with workforce developers and educational institutions to develop a pre-apprenticeship training program that will prepare the manufacturing workforce to meet the rising demand for electric buses in California and beyond.

Zero-emission electric buses are a critical component of California’s strategy for reducing emissions in the transportation sector. As transit agencies transition their bus fleets, demand for electric buses will grow significantly over the next ten years. Electric bus manufacturers like BYD will need a well trained workforce to safely and effectively meet their production targets. At the same time, this growing industry can provide high quality careers for local residents. In Los Angeles County, BYD and SMART Local 105 are part of a Community Benefits Agreement that includes targeted hiring commitments to ensure that the jobs, training, and economic benefits reach underrepresented workers, low-income communities, communities of color, and those with employment barriers in the region.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- A strong, lasting partnership between the Worker Education and Resource Center, BYD, SMART Local 105, workforce developers, educational institutions, local government, community organizations, and other stakeholders that will work together to address industry and workforce needs on an ongoing basis.
- A pre-apprenticeship training program that prepares workers, especially those with employment barriers and from underrepresented and low-income communities of color, for careers in electric bus manufacturing.
- Effective implementation and achievement of the goals and requirements in the Community Benefits Agreement between BYD, SMART Local 105, and Jobs to Move America, including those pertaining to targeted recruitment, hiring, and retention.

KEY PARTNERS

- Worker Education and Resource Center (WERC)
- BYD Coach and Bus
- SMART Local 105
- Jobs to Move America
- Los Angeles County Workforce Development Board
- Los Angeles County Department of Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services (WDACS)
- Advancing Communities Together – Antelope Valley YouthBuild
- Antelope Valley Partners for Health

