

Ford Transit Connect CNG Utility Vans To Join Yellow Cab Chicago Taxi Fleet

DEARBORN – Ford Transit Connect Taxis will begin winding through the streets of the Windy City in March when a fleet of the alternative-fuel vehicles joins Yellow Cab Chicago's service fleet.

Taxi Medallion Management purchased the 12 clean-burning compressed natural gas (CNG) Transit Connect Taxis for its fleet. The cabs will be affiliated with Yellow Cab Chicago and bear the company's logo and familiar yellow color.

The purchase is part of the company's goal of reducing emissions by 25 percent, said Michael Levine, CEO of Taxi Medallion Management. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, CNG is less expensive and burns cleaner than gasoline, resulting in 30 to 40 percent less greenhouse gas emissions.

"We are adding vehicles with more fuel-efficient gasoline engines, as well as vehicles with alternative-fuel sources, to find a vehicle mix that best suits our customers, our drivers, the city at large and the environment," said Levine. "We are excited about testing this new vehicle."

The Ford dealership, Packey Webb Ford, of Downers

Grove, Ill., will deliver the taxi units to Taxi Medallion Management with an engine preparation package for conversion to CNG.

Since introduced as a production vehicle last year, Transit Connect Taxi is gaining interest from taxi operators around the country. The first taxi was delivered to Boston Cab Dispatch in December 2010.

"During product development of this vehicle, we visited cities across the U.S. speaking with taxi owners, operators, drivers and city officials on the key product attributes they wanted in a taxi," said Gerald Koss, Ford Fleet marketing manager. "Of course reliability and durability were key, but fuel-efficient powertrains and sustainable solutions also were high on their lists."

The Transit Connect Taxi package adds comfort for the passenger with a repositioned second-row seat for more legroom, grab handles and a rear ventilation system with passenger controls.

For the Transit Connect Taxi driver, in addition to the comfortable driving environment, new features include rear view camera and back-up sensor, heavy-duty battery

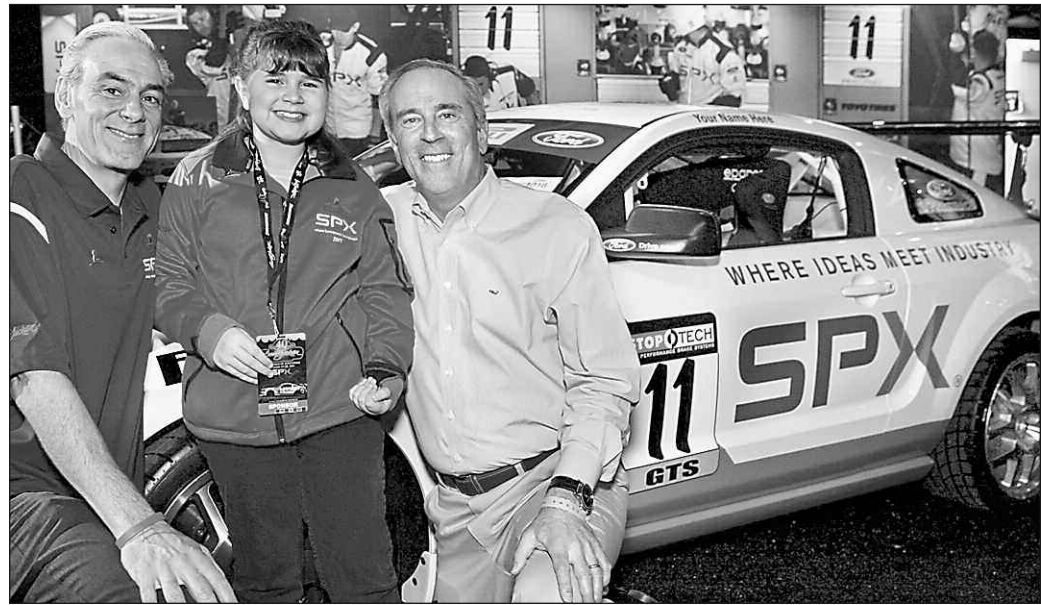
and wiring block connector to power upfitted accessories. The taxis have a 39-foot turning radius that provides excellent driving dynamics and takes the hassle out of tight spots.

The standard Ford Transit Connect – 2010 North American Truck of the Year – features a 2.0-liter I-4 engine that gets EPA-estimated 21 mpg city and 26 mpg highway, an estimated 30 percent improvement in fuel economy compared with traditional taxis.

In addition to CNG, Transit Connect Taxi is available with an engine preparation package for conversion to liquefied propane gas (LPG). Both CNG and LPG lower taxi fleets' operating costs and are better for the environment.

During its first full year of production, 27,405 Transit Connect vehicles were sold in the United States. Demand for Transit Connect continues to grow as evidenced by the 41 percent year-over-year increase in sales for December 2010.

In addition, several organizations with large fleets purchased Transit Connects including Best Buy, Edible Arrangements, ThyssenKrupp Elevator and DTE Energy.



Richard C. Shadyac, Jr., CEO of ALSAC/St. Jude, left, and Chris Kearney, Chairman and CEO of SPX Corporation, right, flank St. Jude patient Audra Koelewyn, age 10, in front of a 2008 Ford Mustang Challenge race car that SPX donated for auction to raise funds for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. The winning bid of \$175,000 took place at Barrett-Jackson in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Mustang Brings \$175,000 for St. Jude

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – SPX Corporation has announced that it helped raise \$175,000 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital at the 40th Annual Barrett-Jackson Collector Car Auction in Scottsdale, Ariz.

The winning bid for SPX's donated Ford Mustang FR500S race car was placed on Friday, Jan. 21, and was among the highlights of this year's auction.

"With our deep roots in the

automobile industry as a global supplier of vehicle service solutions, we are honored to be a part of the Barrett-Jackson community and would like to thank them for helping us once again contribute in a meaningful way to the fundraising efforts of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and the important work they do," said SPX Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer Chris Kearney.

"We are extremely pleased with the outcome of the auction and we want to also thank the many sponsors who helped us collectively create such a fantastic car."

The Ford Mustang FR500S

was a joint effort between SPX, Ford Racing, Miller Motorsports Park, the Ford Racing High Performance Driving School, Stand 21, SPEDCOM Communications, Capaldi Racing and Cragar Wheels.

The winning bidder received the Mustang, along with the opportunity to compete in the SCCA 2011 Pro Racing World Challenge Championship. Other aspects of the winner's package included training and a racing license from the Ford Racing High Performance Driving School at Miller Motorsports Park, and a sponsorship package from SPX for technical and logistical racing support.

Bill Ford Urges College Students To Stay in Michigan and Enjoy Detroit's Technology Revolution

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

were the rust belt and that's how people knew us and people thought of automotive and they thought of Michigan as part of the rust belt and it was kind of yesterday's news and I hated it. And I thought it was wrong, not just for our region but frankly, I thought it was absolutely wrong for our country."

Since the industrial revolution, he said, there isn't a single country since the industrial revolution who's had a strong economy that hasn't had a strong manufacturing base.

"And so, when I would go around the world and meet with world leaders and other countries where Ford does business, almost the first question was, 'What can I do for you?'" he said. "It wasn't a rhetorical question because they would do anything they could to enhance and protect their industrial base."

He said one positive thing that has emerged from GM and Chrysler going into bankruptcy is a national realization that manufacturing matters.

"This it is worth saving, that Detroit matters and that we all should be and will be

an important part of the national future," he said. "But it's very different from the old rust belt days."

Ford said today's manufacturing is not the 20th century definition of manufacturing.

"This is a whole new game and it's a game that Michigan can lead in and it's a game that the Detroit area can lead in and frankly, we should, and I believe will, be the leaders of an international rebuilding and redefinition of manufacturing and it's all driven by technology."

Ford said this includes vehicle-to-vehicle communication and advancements in engine technology.

He said that while the three production vehicles introduced by Ford may not represent the bulk of the company's volume, what they do represent is the company's view of the future and where the industry is headed.

"And with electrification comes a whole new suite of technologies, a whole new suite of know-how and, frankly, a new way of manufacturing that nobody in the world starts off with an advantage over us."

He said it's advanced technology that Detroit and Michigan can hang their hat on.

"Because it's not yesterday's technology, it's tomorrow's technology," he said.

Movie Lecture At Ross House

Detroit has always been at the forefront of film exhibition. It's 20th century movie theaters – some still standing – are now legendary.

As such, the public is invited to hear a lecture entitled "Detroit's Movie Palaces" on Wednesday, Feb. 2 at 7:30 p.m. at the McFadden-Ross House, 915 Brady Street, in Dearborn.

Come and enjoy an interesting look into the history of how downtown Detroit's movies palaces evolved, presented by local history authors Michael Hauser and Marianne Weldon.

Hauser is marketing manager for the historic Detroit Opera House – which is an earlier incarnation, was actually a movie palace itself.

And Weldon is currently curator of collections for the Detroit Historical Society, which runs the Detroit Historical Museum.

The lecture is presented by the Dearborn Historical Museum. For more information, call (313) 565-3000.

Organizers say if you can remember movies shown at the Palms, Fox and United Artists, this talk is for you.

Ford Teams with Best Buy for Home Charging Station

DEARBORN – Ford is crossing autos with consumer electronics to help bring its new generation of plug-in cars to life.

That's all because Ford is working with consumer electronics leader Best Buy to offer a 240-volt home charging station for the automaker's all-new Ford Focus Electric battery electric vehicle and future electric vehicles in the United States.

Best Buy intends to sell the charging station and offer complete consultation and installation services through its Geek Squad subsidiary and third-party licensed electrical contractors.

"With fast charge times, low pricing and a user-friendly design, the 240-volt home charge station will be on the shopping list of most Focus Electric buyers," said Mike Tinskey, manager of Ford's vehicle electrification and infrastructure.

"By working with Best Buy to offer the charging station installation service solution, Ford is providing electric vehicle customers in the U.S. with a familiar, trusted source to turn to for their installation needs."

After purchasing the all-electric vehicle, Focus Electric owners can work with their dealer to set up an installation appointment through Best Buy. Focus Electric charging stations also can be purchased through any of Best Buy's nearly 1,200 stores nationwide or online at

www.bestbuy.com.

Since Best Buy's Geek Squad is a fully owned, in-house service, customers can purchase the charging station and schedule installation from a single point of contact.

During the appointment, a Geek Squad agent will conduct a quick electrical audit to ensure the owner's residence can support the 240-volt charging station. Once the residence passes the electrical audit, the Geek Squad agent will schedule a master electrician for a charging station installation.

"This opportunity enables us to extend an existing strategic relationship with Ford and deliver another convenient solution to people who are anxious to embrace the latest transportation technologies," said Chad Bell, senior director of New Business Solutions Group at Best Buy.

"As more people gravitate toward electric-powered transportation, home energy management becomes an important consideration, and Best Buy intends to be actively engaged in providing convenient, easy-to-access solutions from both our retail and service support operations."

This latest Ford and Best Buy collaboration builds on an already established relationship. The two companies have been working to help consumers in the U.S. understand and utilize the industry-leading SYNC in-car communications system.

Through Best Buy Mobile,

the retailer will offer specially trained associates to assist with Ford SYNC education, training and phone compatibility tests to ensure consumers are maximizing the SYNC experience.

The Ford Focus Electric charging station can be easily installed, replaced or upgraded without the use of tools due to its innovative design and mounting bracket.

The 240-volt home charging station will allow Focus Electric owners to fully charge their cars in as little as three to four hours – charging in half the time as the Nissan Leaf.

Designed and produced to be compact and easy to install, the Ford charging station offers Focus Electric owners multiple advantages over competitive systems:

- Nonpermanent installation: The charging unit plugs into a 240-volt outlet instead of being hard-wired into the electrical breaker box, making removal and replacement a simple unplug-and-plug-back-in operation in the event the owner moves.

- Single point of contact for purchase and installation: Best Buy and Geek Squad will sell, deliver, install and service the home charging station, including contracting any additional home electrical needs for 240-volt service. Best Buy also will handle warranty and repair claims for the charging station.

- Lower price: Based on current plans, the home



Ford said that it will be partnering with Best Buy to provide 240V home chargers for its plug-in electric vehicles.

charging station with standard installation is expected to retail for approximately \$1,499, as much as 30 percent less than competitors' systems.

- Faster charging: With its maximum 32-amp charging capability, Focus Electric owners with the 240-volt home charging station can get a full charge in as little as three to four hours.

When the connector is plugged in to the vehicle's charge port, conveniently located between the driver's door and front wheel well, it activates a light ring that loops around the port twice in acknowledgement of connectivity.

The light ring then illumina-

Focus:HOPE Celebrates U-M Engineering Graduates

by Gerald Scott
Editor
U.S. Auto Scene

They continue to work "everyday miracles" at 1400 Oakman Blvd. in Detroit.

That's the address for Focus:HOPE's Center for Advanced Technologies, and last week they held a big press conference to celebrate a notable achievement, something of the everyday miracle that the educational organization still does so well.

Student candidates Roy Goodman, 26, and Dallas Manning, 41, recently became the first two engineering-degree graduates of a unique collaborative program between Focus:HOPE and the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

Focus:HOPE's Center for Advanced Technologies honored Goodman and Manning at a special luncheon last week.

Goodman, a Detroit native who was raised by his great-grandmother, earned a B.S.E. in Materials Science and Engineering through U-M.

And Manning recently also graduated from U-M with a B.S.E. in Nuclear Engineering and Radiological Sciences.

Sponsorship funding for

both students was provided by the Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME) Education Foundation, which is based in Dearborn.

"The achievements of Roy Goodman and Dallas Manning demonstrate that talented men and women, regardless of their circumstances, can earn a college degree when provided the right support and encouragement," said Julian E. Pate, III, Focus:HOPE's Director of Education.

"These men are also a tribute to our new relationship with the University of Michigan and our joint goal of graduating more people of color into engineering careers.

"Our graduates will provide a unique perspective while diversifying the workforce in this global economy."

The Focus:HOPE Center for Advanced Technologies, established in late 1993, embodies the late Fr. William T. Cunningham's vision to provide underserved individuals with the opportunity to earn a college degree and go on to become leaders in industry.

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Focus:HOPE students pursue engineering course work at partner universities and are exposed to the professional "world of work" through internships with area employers and research and development projects conducted in-house.

Nearly 90 students have now earned bachelor's degrees through this unique program and 167 have earned associate degrees. The associate degree is granted by Lawrence Technological University, while bachelor's degrees are awarded by a growing list of partners including Wayne State University, the University of Detroit Mercy, and most recently, the University of Michigan.

"We're preparing our future workforce for a reinvented economy," said Bart A. Aslin, foundation director, SME Education Foundation.

"We cannot afford to follow the educational template of the past 40 years and expect our young people to succeed.

"As U.S. industries transition, and repetitive assembly jobs continue to be lost to overseas markets, near and long-term career opportunities will be in a growth and de-

velopment mode.

"The degrees secured by Roy Goodman and Dallas Manning reflect that direction and we heartily congratulate and wish them well on their career path."

Goodman and Manning each graduated from U-M in

December, 2010, and have not yet secured their first engineering jobs.

Goodman said he has an interview with supplier Yazaki but would also like to work for an OEM such as Rolls-Royce, BMW or General Motors someday.



PHOTO: GERALD SCOTT

Roy Goodman, left, and Dallas Manning are the first two engineering graduates to emerge from a unique collaboration between Focus:HOPE and the University of Michigan.