

GUEST COLUMN
For the Thursday, June 16, 2016 Edition
From: Mayor James E. "Jamie" Mayo

New Bus Fleet Coming for Monroe Transit

Each year we average close to one million passenger trips provided by Monroe Transit. There is no doubt that public transportation is a very important component for the local economy and quality of life. Citizens rely on Monroe Transit to provide affordable transportation to work, school, healthcare providers, shops, and to their homes.

I am proud to inform you that the city of Monroe has secured more than \$2 million dollars in Federal Transit Authority funding through the Louisiana Department of Transportation for an upgrade to our bus fleet. According to Monroe Transit General Manager Marc Keenan, this will substantially change our bus fleet to all new vehicles that are up-to-date. That will bring a much welcome change as our transit system has been strained by repairs and breakdowns of our current aging fleet. This will represent the second time during my administration that we have purchased an entire new bus fleet for Monroe Transit.

Over the past couple of years, we were able to buy three new smaller buses, mainly used for our ADA service. They also provide supplemental service to our main routes. Now, with the pending \$2.1 million dollars in new federal funding, and a \$315,000 city match, we should be able to order the new buses in 2017. It will take just over a year for them to be built and delivered to Monroe. A brand new bus fleet is on the way soon!

By working together, we are truly making a difference. Monroe is one city, with one future!