

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

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<https://oversight.house.gov>

MEMORANDUM

March 31, 2022

To: Members of the Committee on Oversight and Reform

Fr: Committee Staff

Re: Hearing on “It’s Electric: Developing the Postal Service Fleet of the Future”

On **Tuesday, April 5, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. ET**, the Committee on Oversight and Reform will hold a hybrid hearing in **room 2154 of the Rayburn House Office Building and on the Zoom video platform** to examine the transition of the Postal Service vehicle fleet to electric vehicle technology.

I. HEARING PURPOSE

The purpose of this hearing is to examine the benefits, opportunities, and challenges of electrifying the Postal Service fleet through the acquisition of the Next Generation Delivery Vehicle (NGDV).

II. BACKGROUND

In February 2021, after a six-year competitive procurement process, the Postal Service announced that it planned to award a contract to Oshkosh Corporation to build its NGDV—a purpose-built delivery vehicle for the Postal Service. The contract requires Oshkosh to build either internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles or battery electric vehicles (BEV) for the Postal Service over the next ten years. The minimum purchase order over that period is 50,000 vehicles and the maximum is 165,000 vehicles. The Postal Service will make several orders over ten years and can change the makeup of ICE and BEV engines in each order. Ford Motor Company will contract with Oshkosh to provide parts for both types of vehicles and engines for ICE NGDVs.

On February 8, 2022, the Postal Service estimated that its initial purchase order with Oshkosh would include 5,000 BEVs.¹ On March 24, 2022, the Postal Service placed its initial

¹ United States Postal Service, *Postmaster General and CEO Louis DeJoy’s Remarks During Feb. 8, 2022 Postal Service Board of Governors Meeting* (Feb. 8, 2022) (online at <https://about.usps.com/newsroom/national-releases/2022/0208-pmg-and-ceo-louis-dejoy-remarks-during-feb-8-bogs-meeting.htm>).

purchase order with Oshkosh for 50,000 NGDVs, of which a minimum of 10,019 will be BEVs—twice the number of BEVs the Postal Service initially estimated. The purchase order is worth \$2.98 billion. The first vehicles are expected to begin appearing on routes in late 2023.²

III. WITNESSES

Ms. Tammy L. Whitcomb

Inspector General
United States Postal Service

Ms. Victoria K. Stephen

Executive Director, Next Generation Delivery Vehicle
United States Postal Service

Ms. Jill M. Naamane

Acting Director, Physical Infrastructure Team
Government Accountability Office

Mr. Joe Britton

Executive Director
Zero Emission Transportation Association

Staff contacts: Ethan Van Ness, Emily Burns, Harry Manin, James Rhodes, and Mark Stephenson at (202) 225-5051.

² United States Postal Service, *Press Release: USPS Places Order for 50,000 Next Generation Delivery Vehicles; 10,019 to Be Electric* (Mar. 24, 2022) (online at <https://about.usps.com/newsroom/national-releases/2022/0324-usps-places-order-for-next-gen-delivery-vehicles-to-be-electric.htm>).