

**COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA**

**BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION,  
TOURISM, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
APPROPRIATIONS**

**Senator Gaetz, Chair  
Senator Margolis, Vice Chair**

**MEETING DATE:** Thursday, March 17, 2011  
**TIME:** 8:00 —10:00 a.m.  
**PLACE:** *Toni Jennings Committee Room, 110 Senate Office Building*

**MEMBERS:** Senator Gaetz, Chair; Senator Margolis, Vice Chair; Senators Alexander, Benacquisto, Bennett, Bogdanoff, Bullard, Dean, Diaz de la Portilla, Evers, Fasano, Hill, Latvala, Norman, Sachs, Smith, and Sobel

TAB	BILL NO. and INTRODUCER	BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS	COMMITTEE ACTION
1	<b>CS/SB 782</b> Transportation / Latvala (Compare H 601)	Fallen Officers Memorial/Road Designations; Designates the Sgt. Thomas J. Baitinger, Officer Jeffrey A. Yaslowitz, and Officer David S. Crawford Memorial Highway in Pinellas County. Designates the Officer Jeffrey A. Kocab and Officer David J. Curtis Memorial Highway in Hillsborough County.  TR 02/22/2011 Fav/CS BTA 03/17/2011 BC RC	
Presentation on Safe and Accessible Transportation for the Disabled by Vehicle Production Group			
Budget Work Session			

**The Florida Senate**  
**BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Budget Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development Appropriations

**BILL:** CS/SB 782

**INTRODUCER:** Transportation Committee and Senator Latvala

**SUBJECT:** Fallen Officers Memorial/Road Designations

**DATE:** March 16, 2011      **REVISED:** \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Sookhoo	Spalla	TR	<b>Fav/CS</b>
2.	Carey	Meyer, R.	BTA	<b>Pre-meeting</b>
3.			BC	
4.				
5.				
6.				

**Please see Section VIII. for Additional Information:**

A. COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE.....  Statement of Substantial Changes

B. AMENDMENTS.....  Technical amendments were recommended

Amendments were recommended

Significant amendments were recommended

**I. Summary:**

Section 334.071, F.S., specifies the purpose and effect of the designation of roads, bridges, and other transportation facilities for honorary or memorial purposes by the Florida Legislature. These designations are for honorary purposes only, and do not require changing of street signs, mailing addresses, or 911 listings. The bill designates the following road as follows:

- State Road 687 in Pinellas County from I-275 to I-175 as “Sgt. Thomas J. Baitinger, Officer Jeffrey A. Yaslowitz, and Officer David S. Crawford Memorial Highway.”
- State Road 583/North 50<sup>th</sup> Street in Hillsborough County from Melbourne Blvd/East 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue to State Road 574/Martin Luther King Jr., Blvd as “Officer Jeffrey A. Kocab and Officer David L. Curtis Memorial Highway.”

This bill creates an undesignated section of law.

## II. Present Situation:

Section 334.071, F.S., provides: (1) Legislative designations of transportation facilities are for honorary or memorial purposes, or to distinguish a particular facility, and may not be construed to require any action by local governments or private parties regarding the changing of any street signs, mailing addresses, or 911 emergency telephone number system listings, unless the legislation specifically provides for such changes; (2) When the Legislature establishes road or bridge designations, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is required to place markers only at the termini specified for each highway segment or bridge designated by the law creating the designation, and to erect any other markers it deems appropriate for the transportation facility; and (3) The FDOT may not erect the markers for honorary road or bridge designations unless the affected city or county commission enacts a resolution supporting the designation. When the designated road or bridge segment is located in more than one city or county, resolutions supporting the designations must be passed by each affected local government prior to the erection of markers.

## III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The effects of the bill are as follows:

**Section 1:** The bill designates State Road 687 in Pinellas County from I-275 to I-175 as “Sgt. Thomas J. Baitinger, Officer Jeffrey A. Yaslowitz, and Officer David S. Crawford Memorial Highway”. Also this bill directs FDOT to erect suitable markers.

Sgt. Thomas J. Baitlinger served as a law enforcement officer at the St. Petersburg Police Department for over 15. He voluntarily served as a mentor for students at Gibbs High School, and Sgt. Baitlinger also volunteered for other various committees including the police pension board.

Officer Jeffrey A. Yaslowitz served as a law enforcement officer at the St. Petersburg Police Department for over 11 years. Officer Yaslowitz proved to be an invaluable asset to the department by exemplifying characteristics of public service. He is remembered by his colleagues for his bravery and drive for excellence during his years of service.

Sgt. Thomas J. Baitinger and Officer Jeffrey A. Yaslowitz died in the line of duty on January 24, 2011, while responding to a call for back up. Sgt. Baitinger is survived by his wife, Paige, and Officer Yaslowitz is survived by his wife, Lorraine, and three children.

Officer David S. Crawford served as a law enforcement officer at the St. Petersburg Police Department for 25 years. He gained notoriety for his domestic violence victim advocacy, and he often spoke at schools to educate young people about issues surrounding domestic violence. On February 21, 2011, Officer David S. Crawford was shot multiple times while responding to a report of a suspicious person. Officer David S. Crawford is survived by his wife, Donna, and daughter.

**Section 2:** The bill designates State Road 583/North 50<sup>th</sup> Street in Hillsborough County from Melbourne Blvd/East 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue to State Road 574/Martin Luther King Jr., Blvd is designated as “Officer Jeffrey A. Kocab and Officer David L. Curtis Memorial Highway”.

Officer Jeffrey A. Kocab joined the Plant City Police Department in 2005, and later joined the Tampa Police Department in 2009. During his years as a police officer, Officer Kocab was decorated with multiple awards as employee of the month and Officer of Year in 2007 and 2009.

Officer David L. Curtis served in the Tampa Police Department for over 3 years. In 2007, Officer Curtis was named Officer of the Month for his dedication involving a child neglect case.

Officer Jeffrey A. Kocab and Officer David L. Curtis were killed while attempting to make an arrest at a traffic stop. Officer Kocab is survived by his wife, Sara. Officer Curtis is survived by his wife, Kelly, and four sons.

#### **IV. Constitutional Issues:**

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

#### **V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The FDOT will incur costs of approximately \$1,600 (from the State Transportation Trust Fund) for erecting markers for the designations. This is based on the assumption that four markers will be erected at a cost of \$400 per marker. The FDOT will also have to pay the recurring cost of maintaining these signs over time, and for future replacement of the signs as necessary.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Additional Information:**

- A. **Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:**  
(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

**CS by Transportation Committee on February 22, 2011:**

The committee substitute incorporates the Officer Jeffrey A. Kocab and Officer David L. Curtis Memorial Highway, and adds Officer David S. Crawford to the Sgt. Thomas J. Baitinger, Officer Jeffrey A. Yaslowitz, and Officer David S. Crawford Memorial Highway.

- B. **Amendments:**

None.

# Vehicle Production Group



MV-1: Safe, Accessible Vehicle for the Transportation Disadvantaged  
March 16-17, 2011



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“We know that equality of individual ability does not exist and never will but we still must strive for equality of opportunity...”

*- Franklin Delano Roosevelt*



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# An Underserved Market

- 54 million Americans are disabled.
- 10 million use an ambulatory aide.
- 4 million Americans use a wheelchair.
- Baby Boomers start to turn 65 this year.
- 1.5 million own or lease an adapted vehicle in the US.



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# By the Numbers - Florida

- 2<sup>nd</sup> largest population of 65 and over in US.<sup>i</sup>
- 4<sup>th</sup> largest population of persons with a mobility issue in the US.<sup>i</sup>
- 5<sup>th</sup> largest population of people with disabilities in the US.<sup>ii</sup>
- Tourism welcomes more than 80 million visitors each year.<sup>iii</sup>



<sup>i</sup> US Census Bureau March 2009 and 2010 Current Population Survey (CPS: Annual Social and Economic Supplements)

<sup>ii</sup> US Census Bureau - 2008 American Community Survey (ACS)

<sup>iii</sup> Visit Florida Research. visitflorida.org



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# Current Vehicle Options



## Converted Minivan

- High purchase cost (over \$45k+)
- Poor durability due to conversion
- Chassis now in short supply
- Mainly Rear entry
- No Alternative -Fuel solution
- None meet Buy America Act



## Town Car

- 75-80% of segment
- Moderate cost (over \$40K)
- Being discontinued with no clear replacement
- No wheelchair access
- Difficult for disabled to enter/exit



## Cut-away shuttle

- High purchase cost (~\$65K)
- Poor MPG (~7 MPG)
- More capacity than needed for most routes
- Commercial license required
- Hard to maneuver in city
- Durability issues



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# Who We Are

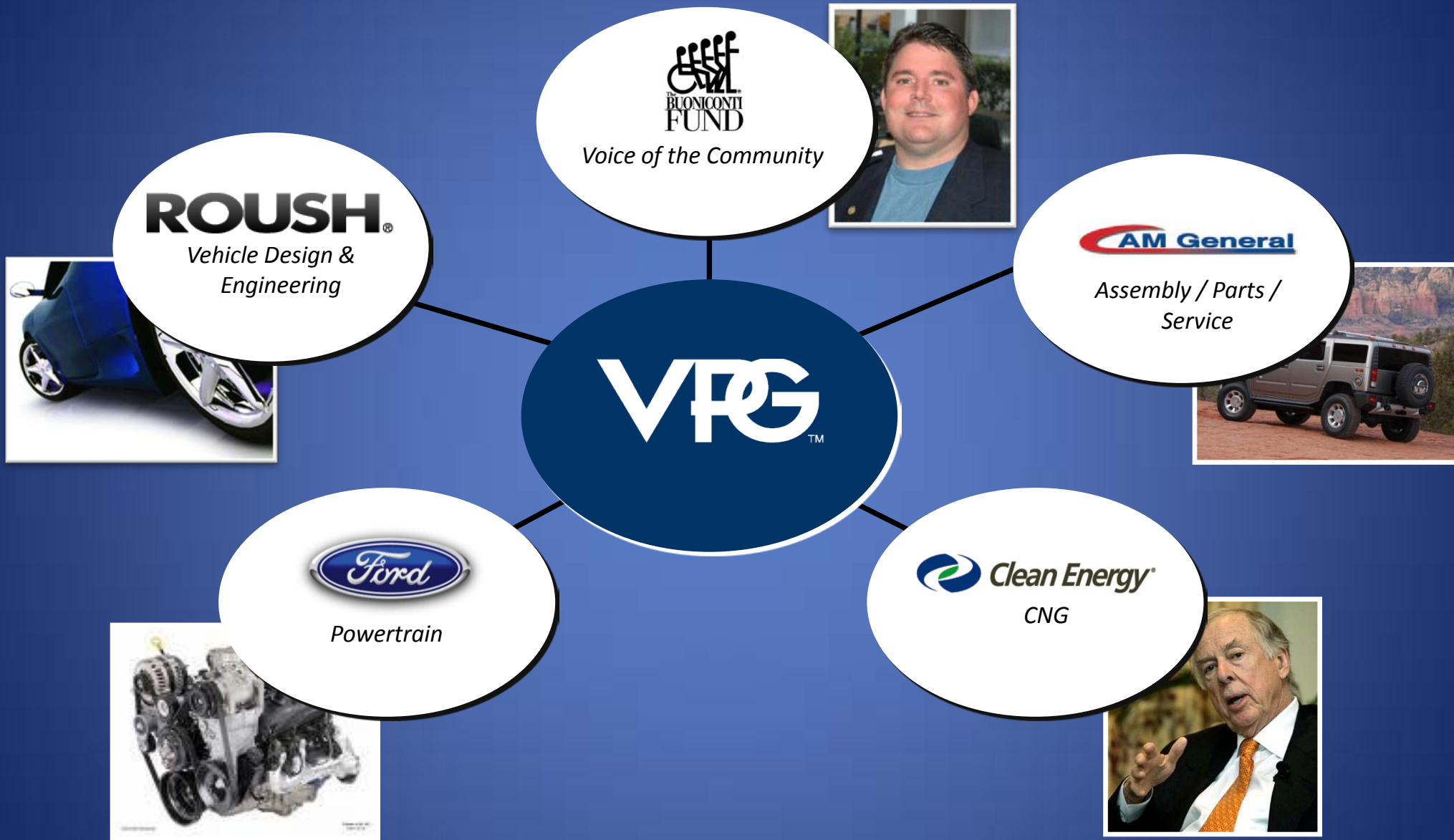
The Vehicle Production Group (VPG) is a Miami based U.S. automotive company. We design, manufacture, market, and distribute the first vehicle engineered and built from the ground up for wheelchair accessibility that is also available with an optional factory-installed CNG fuel system.



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# Strategic Partners



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# Consumer Market Research

- 52 Focus Groups.
- 52 Different Cities.

*“Afterthought means Aftermarket.”*



*“It’s shocking that someone would do something like this.  
Because society doesn’t think too much about us.”*



*“Our whole life is a compromise. We settle  
for less in everything. With this new car, we  
won’t have to.”*



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# Market Segments

## Paratransit

- Commercial & Municipal
- Potential marketplace in paratransit use estimated to be about 70,000 vehicles and growing substantially
  - 6,000 public agencies already operating over 42,000 vehicles
  - 2,000 private agencies with another 26,000 vehicles

## Taxicab

- Over 170,000 taxicab vehicles operated in the US
- Estimated 35,000 annual replacements
- Targeting over 63,000 licensed taxicabs in the top 30 urban markets of US and Canada
- Regulators increasingly push for wheelchair accessible and alternative fuel ready taxicabs

## Other Fleet

- Estimated ~2 million vans in U.S. commercial fleet:
  - Rent-a-car fleets
  - Utility fleet vehicles
  - Alternative fuel vehicles
  - Non-emergency medical transport
  - Independent living and nursing home transport
  - Parcel delivery
  - Cruise-industry shuttles
  - Hotel & hospitality shuttles

## Consumer Retail

- Approximately 10 million Americans use an ambulatory aide (wheelchair, walker or cane) including 4 million in wheelchairs
- Aging US population of Baby Boomers with a growing number of people with disability as they start turning 65
- No ADA-compliant OEM vehicles in the marketplace

The MV-1 addresses the need for an OEM, environmentally-friendly vehicle in the paratransit, taxi, and commercial fleet markets, as well as the retail market for mobility-impaired consumers.



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# VPG's MV-1



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# VPG's MV-1

## Optimized Transportation Solution

- Purpose-built, from the ground, up for wheelchair accessibility.
- Only vehicle in its class with factory installed CNG fueling system.
- Meets or exceeds vehicles guidelines of the ADA and all applicable FMVSS requirements.
- Ideal vehicle size, configuration and maneuverability for efficient fleet management.
- RWD body-on-design with end-to-end fully boxed frame that optimize structural rigidity.
- Powerful Ford 4.6L V8 Engine & 4 speed electronic automatic transmission with overdrive.



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# The MV-1 meets or exceeds ADA guidelines



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# Built in the USA

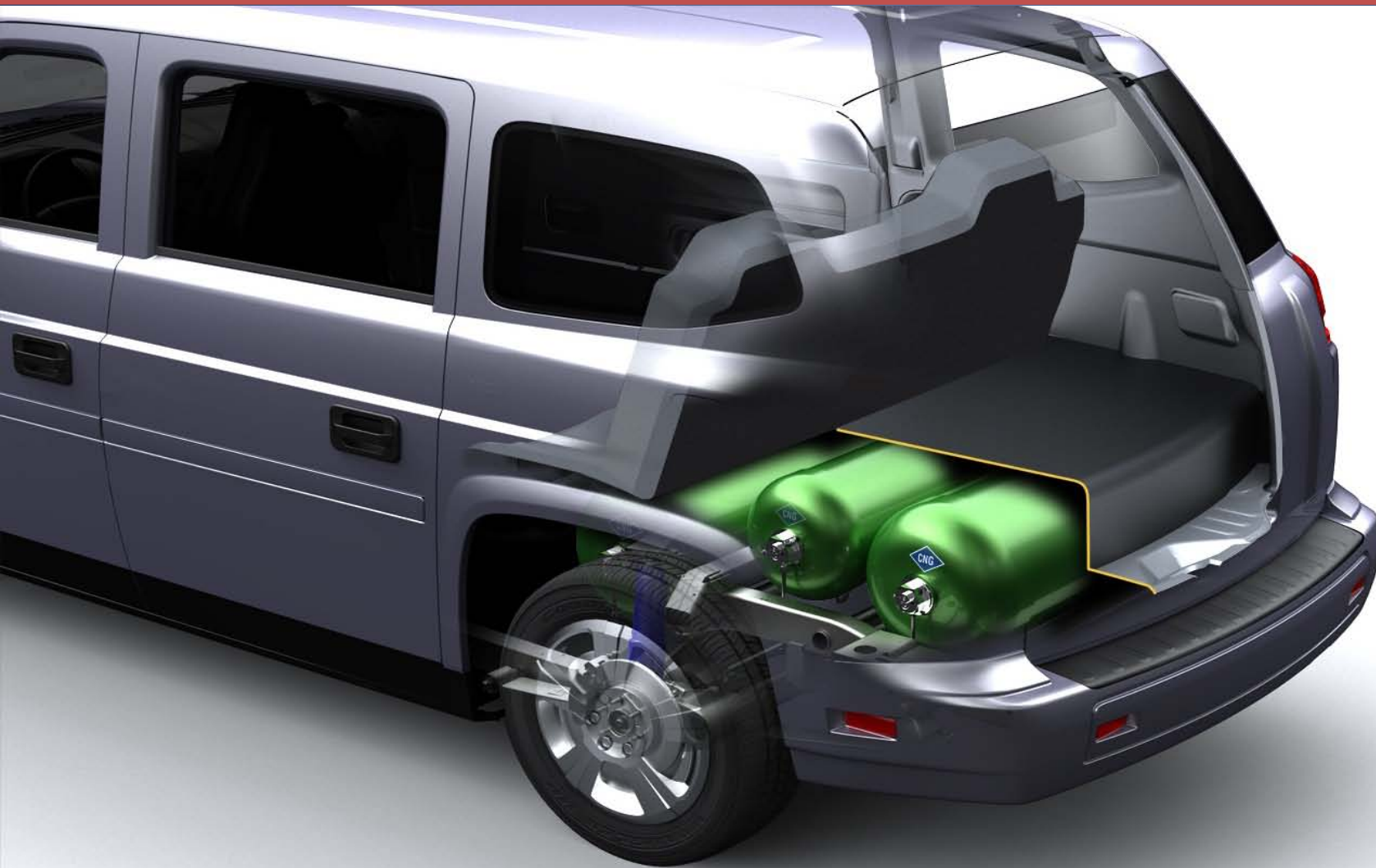
The MV-1 is built in the USA (Mishawaka, IN) and meets the “Buy America Act” requirements for domestic content required for funding by the Federal Transit Administration.



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# CNG Without Compromise



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# CNG Without Compromise

## A Green Solution

- MV-1 is the only vehicle in its class with an OEM engineered and assembled dedicated Compressed Natural Gas fueling system.
- Features an estimated 290 mile range.
- Best-in-class cargo compartment volume.
- Lower greenhouse gases per unit of energy, natural gas contains less carbon than any other fossil fuel.



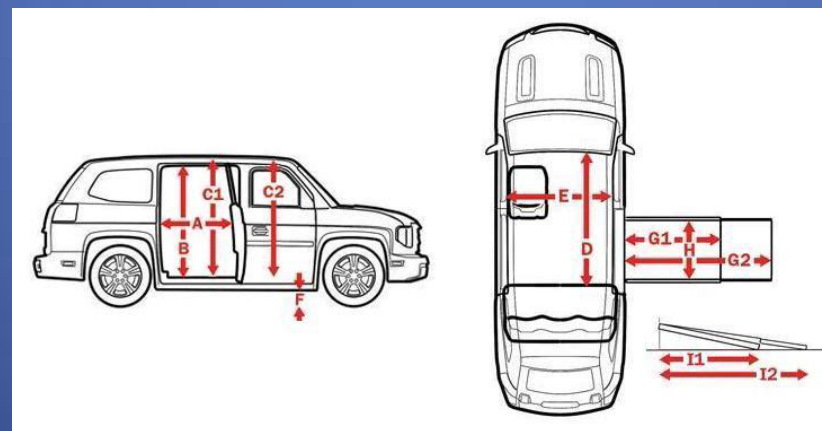
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# M-1 Vehicle Specifications

Dimensions		English	Metric
Wheelbase	-	122.0 in	3,099 mm
Length	-	205.0 in	5,207 mm
Height	-	75 in	1,905 mm
Width	-	79.4 in	2,017 mm
Curb Weight	Gas	5055 lbs.	2293 kg
GVWR	-	6,600 lbs	2,994 kg
Turning Circle	-	42.8 ft	13045 mm
Cargo Volume Index–Gasoline	-	36.4 ft <sup>3</sup>	1,031 L
Cargo Volume Index–CNG	-	29.1 ft <sup>3</sup>	824 L
Access Door Opening Usable Width	A	36 in	914 mm
Access Door Opening Usable Height	B	56 in	1,422 mm

Dimensions		English	Metric
Interior Height Rear Wheelchair Position	C1	59.5 in	1,511 mm
Interior Height Forward Wheelchair Position	C2	58.3 in	1,481 mm
Overall Interior Floor Length	D	81.5 in	2,070 mm
Interior Width at B-Pillars	E	64.5 in	1,638 mm
Vehicle Ground Clearance (minimum)	F	6 in	152 mm
Ramp extension–short deployment	G1	52.5 in	1,334 mm
Ramp extension–long deployment	G2	87 in	2,210 mm
Usable Ramp Width	H	30 in	762 mm
Ramp angle–short (manual)	I1	4.1:1 ratio	-
Ramp angle–short deployment (power)	I1	4.4:1 ratio	-
Ramp angle–long deployment (power)	I2	6:1 ratio	-



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# Competitors

Competitor vehicles are generally priced \$20,000 more than the MV-1. Additionally, *NONE OF THESE VEHICLES MEET FEDERAL CERTIFICATION GUIDELINES*, yet they are eligible for Federal, State and Local financial assistance.

	<b>2011 TOYOTA SIENNA LTD</b>	Price: \$70,610
The all new 2011 Toyota Sienna with the Rampvan conversion offers the same accessibility and convenience of all BraunAbility vehicles in a sporty, streamlined package. The bold, new attitude of this popular vehicle is a <a href="#">...view more details</a>		
Mileage: 5    Conversion: RAMPVAN XT		
	<b>2011 TOYOTA SIENNA XLE2</b>	Price: \$63,575
The all-new 2011 Toyota Sienna with the Rampvan conversion offers the same accessibility and convenience of all BraunAbility vehicles in a sporty, streamlined package. The bold, new attitude of this popular vehicle is a <a href="#">...view more details</a>		
Mileage: 625    Conversion: RAMPVAN XT		
	<b>2010 HONDA ODYSSEY TOURING</b>	Price: \$62,901
The Northstar lowered floor wheelchair accessible minivan represents the culmination of our forward thinking philosophy: a power in floor wheelchair ramp offers open, unrestricted entry and exit as well as greater interior <a href="#">...view more details</a>		
Mileage: 2,448    Conversion: NORTHSTAR		

	<b>2010 HONDA ODYSSEY EXL</b>	Price: \$60,115
The Northstar lowered floor wheelchair accessible minivan represents the culmination of our forward thinking philosophy: a power in floor wheelchair ramp offers open, unrestricted entry and exit as well as greater interior <a href="#">...view more details</a>		
Mileage: 8    Conversion: NORTHSTAR		
	<b>2010 CHRYSLER TOWN &amp; COUNTRY TOURING</b>	Price: \$59,844
The Northstar side entry, lowered floor wheelchair accessible minivan represents the culmination of our forward thinking philosophy: a power in-floor van ramp offers open, unrestricted entry and exit as well as greater interior <a href="#">...view more details</a>		
Mileage: 8    Conversion: NORTHSTAR		
	<b>2010 CHRYSLER TOWN &amp; COUNTRY TOURING</b>	Price: \$59,433
The Northstar side entry, lowered floor wheelchair accessible minivan represents the culmination of our forward thinking philosophy: a power in-floor van ramp offers open, unrestricted entry and exit as well as greater interior <a href="#">...view more details</a>		
Mileage: 22    Conversion: NORTHSTAR		



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# Significant Price Advantage



Wheelchair-accessible van conversions for the consumer and commercial / municipal paratransit markets are relatively expensive (typically priced between \$50,000 and \$70,000) with lower quality and reliability due to lack of an OEM warranted, purpose-built mobility configuration.

No purpose-built, factory direct, ADA-compliant vehicles are currently available in the marketplace.



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# Industry Feedback

*“The MV-1 has the potential to revolutionize our Industry.”*

- Bob Rizzo, Manager, Paratransit Contract Operations MBTA Office for Transportation Access (Boston).

*“I’ve been in the business for over 15 years, many of my clients are aging and in wheelchairs, they want to travel in style and with dignity.”*

- Penny Johnson - Owner, Prime Tour and Travel, Inc.

*“I have been doing research on different vehicles, which are capable of serving the physically challenged community here in Washington DC when I came across your vehicle. I am very impressed and look forward to seeing and learning more. As you might be aware we have no companies presently providing this service in D.C., I promise you this will change in the very near future.”*

- Leon J. Swain, Jr., Chairperson, DC Taxicab Commission



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# Considerations

- Taxi operators to increase the number of accessible vehicles.
- Provide incentives for the purchase of safe, accessible vehicles to the public.
- Require accessible transportation services to utilize OEM accessible vehicles when receiving reimbursement via the Medicaid program.



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# The MV-1 Solution

- Only Purpose Built Vehicle for wheelchair accessibility.
- Only Factory direct vehicle that meets or exceeds vehicle guidelines of the ADA requirements.
- Only Factory Built CNG application.
- MADE IN AMERICA!
- Great Value. The New Standard for a Mobility Vehicle.



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# A New American Car Company



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