



Cuckmere Community Bus Ltd

(Registered Charity 1120494)

Trustees' Report and unaudited Accounts

31 December 2024

Cuckmere Community Bus Ltd

2024 Report and unaudited Accounts

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Cuckmere Community Bus Ltd
Annual Report
for year ended 31 December 2024

Legal and Administrative Details

Legal Status

- company/charity name - Cuckmere Community Bus Ltd
- England & Wales Charity Commission register number 1120494
- England & Wales Registrar of Companies register number 06032000
- trading name - Cuckmere Buses
- website address for charity – www.cuckmerebuses.org.uk

Objects

The object of the Company is to provide a community bus and a community transport service, including private hire, for such of the inhabitants of East and West Sussex and the City of Brighton and Hove who are in need of such a service because of age, sickness or disability (mental or physical), or poverty, or because of a lack of availability of adequate and safe public passenger services.

Trustees/Directors

Philip Montague Ayers

Nicholas Brian Price

Susan Olave de Angeli (resigned 23 April 2024)

Stewart Colin Fuller (resigned 23 April 2024)

Beryl Anne Smith

Paul Patrick Warren

Wayne John Evenden (from 23 April 2024)

Principal Address

The Old Rectory

Litlington

Polegate

East Sussex

BN26 5RB

Insurance Broker

Arthur J Gallacher

34 Tower View

Kings Hill, West Malling

Kent

ME19 4UY

Bankers

Barclays Bank plc

Co-operative Bank plc

CCLA Fund Managers

Independent Examiner

Sarah Price – SLP Advisory Limited

Cuckmere Community Bus Ltd

Annual Review

for year ended 31 December 2024

The Trustees, who are also Directors of the company for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Review of Activities

Cuckmere Buses is the trading name for Cuckmere Community Bus Ltd (CCB), a charitable limited company based in Berwick, East Sussex. It has been running for 48 years supplementing existing bus services and providing bus links for village residents throughout the Cuckmere Valley area to their nearest towns for shopping, for appointments, or for social activities.

OUR VISION is being the Community Bus service of choice in our area, and OUR MISSION is providing a safe, reliable, and courteous local bus, serving those rural and urban communities in our part of East Sussex not served by commercial companies.

CCB is run entirely by volunteers; there are no employees. We have some 41 volunteer drivers, all with D1 classification on their licences, and a few additional volunteers who all help run the fleet of 16-seater low-floor Mercedes mini-buses. The MIDAS (Minibus Awareness Scheme) system of training has been radically altered to the point where CCB no longer considers it appropriate for new driver recruits or for continuing education and reassessment. CCB has instead developed its own training and assessment scheme, at least equivalent to MIDAS standards, which has been accepted by East Sussex County Council and our insurers. The value of volunteers to the organisation cannot be overestimated, in terms of community support and company viability. In addition to over 20 weekly timetabled services, requiring nearly twice as many half-day shifts, the company operates summer leisure services and offers private hire facilities. We also provide special annual services for the International Tennis in Eastbourne, and the Charleston festivals.

CCB remains a busy voluntary organisation and always needs new volunteers. Our ongoing recruitment programme has resulted in a reasonable net increase in drivers by the end of the year and we are still looking to increase numbers further in 2025. However, the Department for Transport's review of the changing need for D1 licence requirements for minibuses is a positive move and may result in us being able to access a broader driver pool, given that the D1 licence is only available if you passed your test before 1997. Although this review seems to have stalled recently, we optimistically await the outcome of the consultation.

2024 continued the growth in passenger numbers following the pandemic and by the year-end we had carried 87,915 (2023 75,222) passengers which, not only exceeded the 2019 figure of 81,632 but was also the highest numbers of journeys we have ever catered for. In addition, we ran some 159,042 (2023 137,573) miles and hope to see a continued recovery of passenger journeys during 2025.

Cuckmere Community Bus Ltd

Annual Review

for year ended 31 December 2024 (cont)

The charity did eventually take delivery of its new bus (ordered in 2023), a little later than planned, and this went into service from March 2024. Given supply chain issues a further bus was ordered at the beginning of 2024, with expected delivery in 2025, but this arrived much sooner than anticipated and was delivered in the autumn and went into service from November 2024 and coincided with the disposal of our oldest bus, meaning, that the fleet now consists of eight minibuses at the year-end. There are no further planned additions to the fleet for 2025, with any likely additions to take place in 2026.

Roadworks and road closures continued to present major challenges during the year, especially in Hailsham town centre, which often resulted in delays, re-scheduled and re-routed services and regrettably, some cancellations. Hopefully these will ease during 2025.

The charity operates efficiently to a high standard under the control of the Board of Trustees who met formally on four occasions during the year. They reviewed operations of the company, its financial position, and the outlook for the future. In addition, two Stakeholder meetings consisting of representatives of parish and town councils and company officers were held, plus the AGM in April. The annual social gathering of stakeholders and drivers was held in July and periodic drivers' meetings were held during the year to review resource availability, services operated and passenger views. Drivers provide a vital first point of contact with passengers and their feedback is invaluable.

The trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the charity commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

Financial Performance

The financial statements are included on pages 8 to 14. All income and expenditure are related to unrestricted funds; there are no restricted nor endowment funds.

Central and local government continued financial support for bus operators generally during the year by continuing to pay fuel rebate grants and concessionary travel fares based on pre-covid levels, along with other support grants. These government support initiatives, together with our volunteer structure avoiding staff costs and related overheads, plus maintenance costs reflecting a relatively young fleet, all helped the charity maintain a viable operating financial position.

With a gross income of £339,027 (2023 - £266,781) and expenditure of £329,667 (2023 - £257,256), the year ended with a modest surplus of £9,360 (2023 - £9,525). Year-end net assets amounted to £284,187 (2023 - £274,827) including cash at bank of £114,309 (2023 - £136,722). The charity operates a policy of holding cash reserves to meet projected cash outlays taking account of sourcing requirements for acquisitions under its bus replacement programme. Funds not required in the short term are held in an appropriate deposit account. At the end of the year, the Trustees agreed an unrestricted bus replacement reserve fund of £20,000 (2023 - £55,000), to cover future bus acquisitions.

A high-level five-year trend of finances, passengers and miles run is shown graphically on page 15.

The Trustees have not identified any major uninsured risks to which the charity is exposed.

Cuckmere Community Bus Ltd

Annual Review

for year ended 31 December 2024 (cont)

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The governing document of the charity is the Memorandum and Articles of Association, which was adopted in November 2006 on the formation of the Cuckmere Community Bus as a company which was registered as a charity.

The current members of the Company are all Directors of the Company and Trustees of the Charity, who meet quarterly to fulfil both functions and who may stand for re-election at the next Annual General Meeting.

Going Concern

The Trustees continue to monitor the ongoing impacts the industry faces, including recovery of passenger numbers as well as other events, particularly levels of inflation and increased fuel and vehicle running costs. They have determined that, whilst significant, they do not create a material uncertainty that casts major doubt upon the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Forward View

In addition to maintaining a strong operational business base for the charity, our focus over the coming year will again be threefold. First, to continue to build patronage numbers so we can provide support to the same or greater level of deserving passengers we helped pre-pandemic. Secondly, to continue to develop our driver training, assessment and support programme and thirdly, to continue with the recruitment programme to increase the overall number of volunteer drivers.

As a result of central government's positive focus on the bus industry, a number of initiatives within East Sussex may provide the opportunity for CCB to increase current service levels leading to increased net revenues. We look forward to these possible developments during the coming year.

Changes in Trustees/Directors

In April 2024 we welcomed onboard Wayne Evenden as Trustee/ Engineering Director. Wayne is also a volunteer driver.

In April 2024 we sadly said farewell to Susan Olave de Angelli and Stewart Fuller, both Trustee/Directors who resigned after many years' service and we thank them for all their hard work.

Acknowledgements

We are a successful business in meeting our mission and as always, thanks go to our volunteer drivers, our regular passengers, to everybody involved in the day to day running of the organisation, and to Berwick Service Station for keeping the buses well maintained. Particular thanks also go to the individuals and local authorities who made donations to the charity during the year. A summary of donation support is listed on page 13 of this report. Thank you all.

Cuckmere Community Bus Ltd
Annual Review
for year ended 31 December 2024 (cont)

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees (who are also Directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 2 April 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Beryl Smith - Chairman

2 April 2025

Cuckmere Community Bus Ltd

Independent Examiner's Report

I report to the Board of Trustees/Directors on my examination of the accounts of Cuckmere Community Bus Ltd for the year ended 31 December 2024.

As the Trustees of the Charity, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act).

Independent examiner's statement

Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe in any material respect:-

- 1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- 2) the accounts do not accord with those records
- 3) the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement
- 4) the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended

Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination, to which attention should be drawn in this report, in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Sarah Price – SLP Advisory Limited
Independent Examiner

02 April 2025

Cuckmere Community Bus Ltd
Income & Expenditure Account
for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Income			
Passenger Services	2	248,919	196,831
Grants & Donations	3	31,802	29,220
Private Hire & Special Events		22,760	30,106
Other income	4	35,546	10,624
Total Income		339,027	266,781
Expenditure			
Charitable Activities			
Servicing, Repairs & Cleaning		(112,762)	(76,814)
Diesel (net of BSOG)		(21,346)	(29,423)
Licences & Insurance		(34,927)	(27,136)
Operations		(33,061)	(38,238)
		<u>(202,096)</u>	<u>(171,611)</u>
Support Costs			
Administration		(39,751)	(20,708)
Depreciation	5	(87,820)	(64,937)
		<u>(127,571)</u>	<u>(85,645)</u>
Total Expenditure		(329,667)	(257,256)
Surplus (Deficit) for the year		9,360	9,525
Opening reserves		274,827	265,302
Closing reserves (per Balance Sheet)		284,187	274,827

Cuckmere Community Bus Ltd

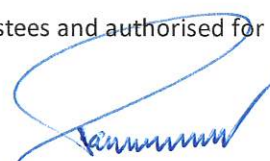
Balance Sheet at 31 December 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Tangible Fixed Assets	7	427,125	257,513
Current Assets			
Debtors	8	14,448	12,996
Cash at Bank	9	<u>114,309</u>	<u>136,722</u>
		128,757	149,718
Prepayments and Accrued Income		12,493	12,851
Total Current Assets		<u>141,250</u>	<u>162,569</u>
Creditors due within one year			
Amounts falling due within one year	10	(83,578)	(68,319)
Accruals and deferred income		(49,389)	(26,274)
Unamortised grants for purchase of assets	6	-	(4,842)
Total Creditors due within one year		<u>(132,967)</u>	<u>(99,435)</u>
Net Current Assets (liabilities)		8,283	63,134
Total Assets less current liabilities		<u>435,408</u>	<u>320,647</u>
Creditors due after one year	10	(151,221)	(45,820)
Total net assets		<u>284,187</u>	<u>274,827</u>
Funds of the Charity			
Unrestricted funds - general		264,187	219,827
Unrestricted funds - asset replacement		20,000	55,000
Total Unrestricted Funds		<u>284,187</u>	<u>274,827</u>

- the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 December 2024.
- the members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024 in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.
- the Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for:
 - ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with sections 368 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
 - preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies act 2006 relating to financial statements so far as applicable to the charitable company.
- these financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 2 April 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:


Beryl Smith
 Trustee/Director


Paul Warren
 Trustee/Director

Cuckmere Community Bus Ltd
Funds Flow Statement
for year ended 31 December 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Surplus for the year		9,360	9,525
add back Depreciation (net)	5	87,820	64,937
less Other Income	4	(35,546)	(10,624)
Cash from Trading		<u>61,634</u>	<u>63,838</u>
Other Income	4	35,546	10,624
Capital Grants Received		-	-
Movement in fixed assets			
Acquisitions	7	(262,377)	-
Proceeds of disposal (NBV before surplus)	7	<u>103</u>	<u>-</u>
		(262,274)	-
Movement in Working Capital			
Debtors		(1,452)	(3,790)
Prepayments		358	(5,430)
Creditors		<u>35,250</u>	<u>10,289</u>
		34,156	1,069
Movement in Loans			
New debt		171,142	-
Interest		10,855	7,323
Payments		<u>(73,472)</u>	<u>(57,360)</u>
		108,525	(50,037)
Movement in Funds in the Year		<u>(22,413)</u>	<u>25,494</u>
Cash at Bank			
Opening		136,722	111,228
Movement in Funds (as above)		<u>(22,413)</u>	<u>25,494</u>
Closing (per Balance Sheet)		<u>114,309</u>	<u>136,722</u>

Cuckmere Community Bus Ltd
Notes to the Accounts
for year ended 31 December 2024

1. Accounting Policies

1.1 Statutory information - Cuckmere Community Bus Limited is an incorporated charity and registered in England & Wales. The charity's registered number and registered office address can be found in the Report of the Trustees.

1.2 Basis of Accounting - The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. Income and expenditure are accounted for on an accruals basis.

1.3 Income - is recognised in the accounts when the charity becomes entitled to the resources and is shown exclusive of VAT. The significant value of voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report. Debtors are measured at settlement amounts less any trade discounts.

1.4 Expenditure - liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources, and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty. Creditors are measured at settlement amounts less any trade discounts.

1.5 Tangible Fixed Assets - are recorded at cost and subsequently stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Depreciation is calculated to write off the cost of an asset, less its estimated residual value, over the prudent useful economic life of that asset on a straight-line basis. Capital grants supporting fixed asset acquisitions are released to revenue account on a straight-line basis over the life of the related asset class and reduce the annual total depreciation charge.

1.6 Hire Purchase Agreements - assets are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and depreciated over their useful lives. The capital element of future finance payments is included within creditors; finance charges are allocated to accounting periods over the length of the contract.

1.7 Fund Accounting - unrestricted funds (including designated funds) may be used in accordance with the charitable objectives of the charity at the discretion of the trustees.

1.8 Taxation - The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Cuckmere Community Bus Ltd
Notes to the Accounts
for year ended 31 December 2024 (cont)

	2024	2023
	£	£
2 Passengers Services		
Concessionary Fares	128,899	127,325
Ticket Fares	42,469	21,754
Support from:		
Charleston Towner Support	28,833	13,217
East Dean & Friston PC	1,628	1,921
ESCC/B&H	47,090	30,214
Hailsham Town Council	-	2,050
Polegate Town Council	-	350
	<u>248,919</u>	<u>196,831</u>
3 Grants and Donations	2024	2023
Town and Parish Councils		
Alfriston	-	200
Arlington	200	100
Berwick	200	100
Cuckmere Valley	1,271	250
Heathfield & Waldron	250	200
Herstmonceux	-	250
Long Man	250	250
Polegate	-	500
Seaford	2,500	2000
Westham	150	-
Willingdon & Jevington	800	850
	<u>5,621</u>	<u>4,700</u>
ESCC	5,133	3,705
Wealden District Council	5,000	5,000
Passenger donations	9,929	12,198
Other donations	6,119	3,617
	<u>31,802</u>	<u>29,220</u>
4 Other Income	2024	2023
Surplus on disposal of fixed assets	29,150	-
Bank interest	1,569	1,345
Insurance Claims	3,727	8,827
Timetable and other adverts	1,100	452
	<u>35,546</u>	<u>10,624</u>
5 Depreciation	2024	2023
Charge in year	92,662	88,653
less amortisation of grant in year (note 6)	(4,842)	(23,716)
	<u>87,820</u>	<u>64,937</u>
6 Unamortised Grants	2024	2023
at start of year	(4,842)	(28,558)
released during year (note 5)	4,842	23,716
at end of year	<u>-</u>	<u>(4,842)</u>

Cuckmere Community Bus Ltd
Notes to the Accounts
for year ended 31 December 2024 (cont)

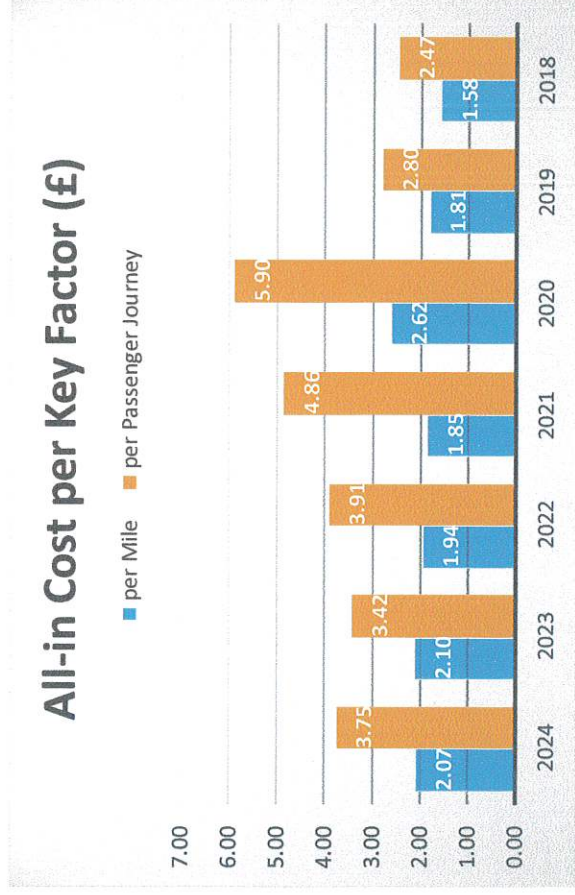
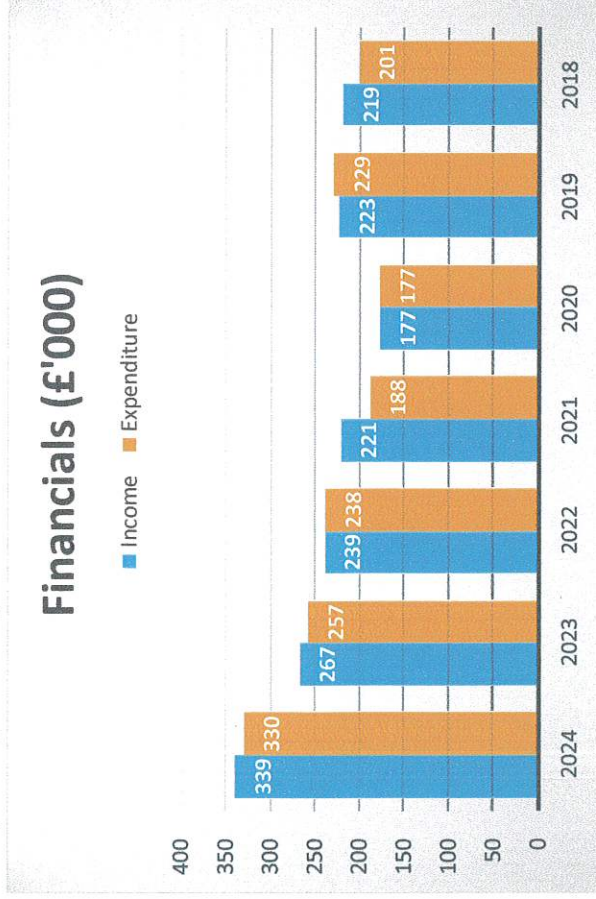
	2024	2023
7 Tangible Fixed assets		£
Cost		
at start of year	690,636	690,636
additions in the year	262,377	-
disposals in the year	(94,219)	-
at end of year	<u>858,794</u>	<u>690,636</u>
Cumulative Depreciation		
at start of year	433,123	344,470
charges in the year (note 5)	92,662	88,653
disposals in the year	(94,116)	-
at end of year	<u>431,669</u>	<u>433,123</u>
Net Book Value	<u>427,125</u>	<u>257,513</u>
8 Debtors	2024	2023
Accounts receivable	11,469	6,612
VAT reclaimable	2,979	6,384
	<u>14,448</u>	<u>12,996</u>
9 Cash at Bank	2024	2023
Barclays current account	105,091	65,708
Co-operative current account	8,303	25,666
Charities deposit account	915	45,348
Petty Cash	-	-
	<u>114,309</u>	<u>136,722</u>
10 Creditors	2024	2023
Amounts falling due within one year		
Trade creditors	(29,603)	(17,468)
Hire purchase contracts	(53,975)	(50,851)
	<u>(83,578)</u>	<u>(68,319)</u>
Amounts falling due after one year		
Hire purchase contracts (1-5 years)	<u>(151,221)</u>	<u>(45,820)</u>

11 Audit: Expenditure is after charges for Independent Review £900 (2023 - £960) and other professional services £nil (2023 - £300)

12 Transactions with Directors: There were no transactions between the company and its Trustees/Directors

13 Related Party Disclosures: There were no transactions between the company and related parties

Graphs - year on year trends



Our Current Fleet



Bus 30



Bus 29



Bus 28



Bus 27



Bus 25



Bus 24



Bus 22



Support Vehicle