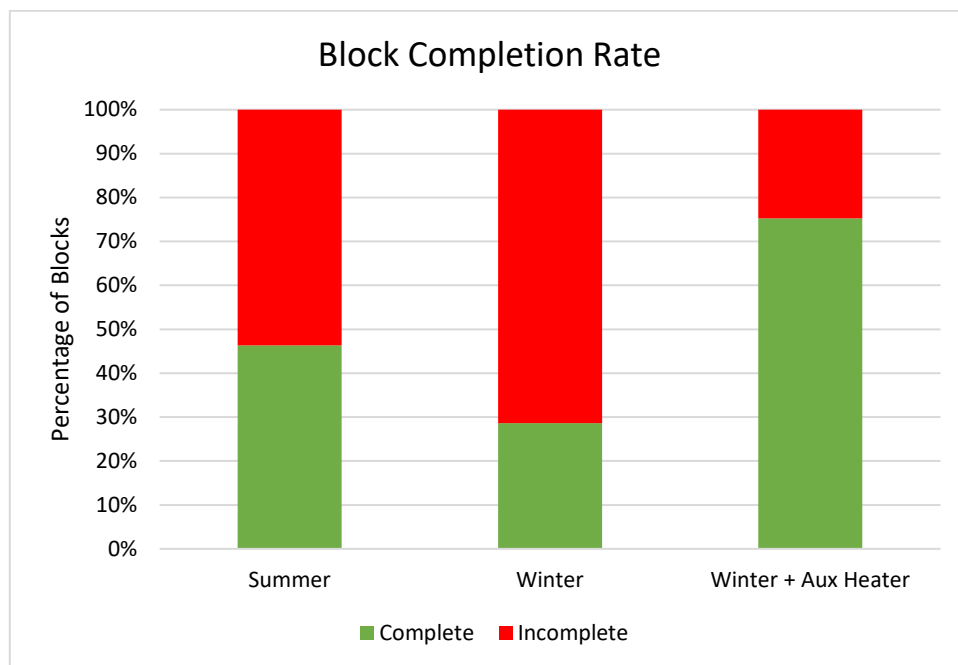




LOW AND NO EMISSIONS FACILITIES AND FLEET TRANSITION PLAN (FFTP) UPDATE

RTD has continued to make progress on the Low No Emissions Facilities and Fleet Transition Plan during January 2024.

In December, RTD received preliminary results from the battery-electric bus modeling. This modeling accounted for different scenarios which included the agency’s operating environment, such as local weather, specific service and scheduling requirements, advertised and expected useful battery life of battery-electric buses, as well as other elements. The preliminary modeling was conducted based on the service provided in RTD’s September 2023 change and factored in ranges for summer (warm weather) and winter (cold weather) operations. The modeling showed that, with current technology, less than half of RTD’s service blocks (i.e., blocking is the practice of dividing parts of a scheduled route among vehicles and operators) could be completed with a battery-electric bus during the summer scenario and less than a third of RTD’s service blocks could be completed during the winter scenario. The results of the winter scenario improved significantly when a diesel auxiliary heater was used to power the HVAC system. Auxiliary heaters produce very few emissions relative to a diesel bus engine, but significantly improve range and battery life during cold weather operations. RTD staff are currently in the process of auditing the preliminary modeling results and anticipate finalizing results of the initial round of bus modeling in the first quarter of 2024.



Next steps in the fleet analysis task include modeling RTD’s future service (i.e., the anticipated service delivery captured in the System Optimization Plan) using future projected battery capacities, and an assessment of how RTD could improve the completion rate of battery electric buses through service changes, mid-day charging, and on-route charging.



In early January, the project team finalized the Existing Studies Review, which documents many existing plans, studies, and legislation, and how they impact RTD’s facility and fleet transition.

The existing studies report includes previous RTD planning efforts; local, regional and state plans; as well as national plans and programs.

Work on the facilities analysis and financial analysis tasks will commence in the first quarter of 2024. These tasks are being completed in tandem with the fleet analysis, as final recommendations regarding fleet technology will be highly dependent on infrastructure and facility requirements, as well as the overall cost to the agency.

The project team is on track to complete the Facilities and Fleet Transition Plan by December 15, 2024.