DAS FLEET NEWSLETTER

# inroads

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**After Hours Emergencies**
Call **1-877-454-4204** (toll-free)
Your call will be answered through the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Dispatch Office, which will assist you.

**Online**
Go to:
http://das.ct.gov and click on ***FLEET OPERATIONS*** for additional information on fueling locations, accident forms and mileage reports.

## Ford E-Series Vans

***The end of an era*** – Very soon, Ford will build its last E-Series van. This line was introduced by Ford way back in 1961 when it was known as the Econoline. However, the 2014 model marks the final year of production for these versatile vehicles. The run of more than 50 years for any nameplate is significant, and its absence will create a void, as the E-Series is offered in both passenger and cargo versions. Its primary users have been fleets, but the E-Series has met the needs of many - from business and governments, to contractors, vanpools, student transportation and large families.

Wikipedia reports that the decision to discontinue the E-Series vans is part of Ford's movement to consolidate its North American and global vehicle lines, as it has done with the Ford Fiesta, Ford Focus/Ford C-Max, Ford Fusion/Ford Mondeo, Ford Escape/Ford Kuga, and the Ford Transit Connect.

However, Ford isn't leaving the full-sized van market. For 2015 they will offer the Transit (not to be confused with the smaller Transit Connect, of which DAS has purchased roughly 75 and is evaluating to determine if this model is going to be a viable long-term solution). Like the E-Series, the Transit is a rear-wheel drive van. The Transit will offer a choice of two six-cylinder engine options and several size configurations that include different wheelbases, roof heights, and over-all lengths that will allow for seating for up to 15, along with cargo versions.

The closest options to the E-Series in terms of size and proven reliability are the Chevy Express and GMC Savanna. They have both been around for many years and are typically powered by a GM V-8. We purchased some of these in 2009 and have found them to be reliable and durable. For example, Department of Correction has been using ten of these in their transportation unit with excellent results - most have already racked up over 200,000 miles without requiring engine or transmission overhauls, or any other major work.

So that DAS may continue to meet your large van needs, we will wait for pricing to be announced on the Transit later this year and then work with agencies to identify the best solution.

# Had an Accident?

With a fleet of over 3,500 vehicles our exposure to being involved in incidents that result in some type of vehicle damage is significant. To make the reporting process go as easy as possible, please remember to have the driver report the accident within 48 hours, using the writeable PDF for found in the Accidents section of the fleet page on the DAS site (just click on the third bullet – Accident form). When it's completed email it to Fleet.Accidents@ct.gov.