

Transportation Committee

For the Committee of the Whole meeting of March 17, 2021
(originally scheduled for the Metropolitan Council meeting of March 10, 2021)

Subject: Procurement of 143 Biodiesel Sixty-Foot Transit Buses, Contract 19P321

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 19P321 with New Flyer of America Inc., to provide 143 base order biodiesel sixty-foot transit buses (including optional equipment) with options to purchase up to 29 additional replacement and expansion buses in an amount not to exceed \$121,997,561.

Summary of Committee Discussion/Questions

Metro Transit Deputy Chief Operating Officer – Bus Brian Funk presented this item. Fredson asked if the buses will be made in Minnesota. Funk said he could not say for sure, but experience shows that it is likely they will be built in St. Cloud. Chamblis asked about who was eligible to apply. Funk said in the market for the specific bus there are two primary players. Cummings asked for more information about the pricing. Funk said price certainty is negotiated into the contract. Funk acknowledged that there was no known opposition to this Business Item when presented but did address why no electric buses are included in this procurement. Funk stated that Metro Transit remains committed to bus electrification but explained that the current technology is not a good match with currently available technology nor their intended purpose in the Metro Transit fleet (Commuter/Express and long distance BRT). Funk also highlighted several opportunities to add additional electric buses in the near future.

Motion by Fredson, seconded by Chamblis. Motion carried.

Known Support / Opposition

After the Transportation Committee meeting, the Council and its members received communications and correspondence from members of the public and other interested persons voicing their concern about the proposed purchase of biodiesel buses rather than electric buses.

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: February 22, 2021

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of March 10, 2021

Subject:	Procurement of 143 Biodiesel Sixty-Foot Transit Buses, Contract 19P321
District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	FM14-2 - Expenditures for the Procurement of Goods and Services Policy
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Wes Kooistra, General Manager, Metro Transit 612-349-7510 Vince Pellegrin, Deputy General Manager, Metro Transit 612-349-7511 Brian Funk, Deputy Chief Operations Officer, Bus, 612-349-7514 Matt Dake, Director, Bus Maintenance, 612-349-5000 Joe Reichstadt, Assistant Director Bus Maint Admin, 612-349-5052
Division/Department:	Metro Transit

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Background

Metro Transit is replacing or expanding one hundred forty-three base order buses in 2021-2024 and there are potential Metro Transit fleet plan needs for option buses to be ordered in 2021-2024.

The Request for Proposals was advertised on October 28, 2020. There were eight registered plan holders for the project. Proposals were due on December 16, 2020 and one proposal was received from New Flyer of America Inc. Procurement staff conducted an Adequate Competition Determination evaluation and concluded there was no indication of that the solicitation specifications were restrictive and that there was adequate competition. The Office of Equal Opportunity did not set a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise goal for this project as it is federally funded and requires proposers to comply with FTA DBE requirements for Rolling Stock (49 C.F.R. § 26.49).

Rationale

The evaluation panel utilized the expertise and knowledge from a wide array of staff disciplines, including technical advisors and external stakeholders in determining a recommendation. The following criteria was used in the evaluation of the single proposal; proposer quality, proposer qualifications, experience, price and the ability to meet current and future needs.

The proposal submitted by New Flyer of America Inc. was highly ranked and provided a fair and reasonable price of \$747,897.00 per bus. When compared to a similar equipped bus purchased on the 2014 contract with New Flyer of America Inc., the newly proposed price is 1.6% higher while the Producer Price Index for inflation over the last 7 years is 15.48% for Transportation Equipment.

The award and execution of contracts for rolling stock in excess of \$500,000 requires Council approval.

Thrive Lens Analysis

A Metro Transit Biodiesel Sixty-Foot Bus contract advances Thrive outcomes through the lens of promoting regional Livability, Sustainability and Prosperity for everyone, by continuing to serve residents who depend on transit as well as all residents of the region in an environmentally responsible manner.

Funding

Funding for the bus purchases will be approved by the Metropolitan Council into the Authorized Capital Budget through capital budget amendments when funding is available.

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition to the proposed action.