

Transportation Committee

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of May 14, 2014

Subject: 2014 Small Buses Procurement

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute purchase agreements, contingent upon Council approval of Action Item 2014-65 on April 30, 2014, with:

1. Hogle Bus (MnDOT Contract 72485) for up to 28 replacement buses and 39 expansion buses in an amount not to exceed \$4,307,000; and
2. North Central Bus Sales (MnDOT Contract 72487) for up to 21 replacement buses and 18 expansion buses in an amount not to exceed \$2,386,000.

Summary of Committee Discussion/Questions

Metropolitan Transportation Services Fleet Manager Paul Colton presented this item. Rodriguez noted that the growth in the number of vehicles over the last 5 years has not kept pace with the growth in ridership. Colton agreed and added that this causes difficulty by not having any spare buses during peak times of service.

Motion by Commers, seconded by Reynoso and passed.

Hearing no objection, Chair Duinick said that this item could proceed to the full Council as a consent item.

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: April 28, 2014

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of May 14, 2014

Subject: 2014 Small Buses Procurement

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: State of Minnesota Cooperative Vehicle Procurement contract release number B-347(5); and Council Procedure 1-2c Sustainability in Fleet Procedure

Staff Prepared/Presented: Arlene McCarthy, Director MTS (651) 602-1754

Micky Gutzmann, Director of Purchasing – Metropolitan Council (651) 602-1741

Gerri Sutton, Asst. Director, Contracted Transit Services (651) 602-1672

Andrew Krueger, Sr. Manager, Metro Mobility (651) 602-1689

Paul Colton, Manager, Fleet Services, MTS (651) 242-1668

Division/Department: Transportation / Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS)

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Background

This procurement of 106 buses aligns with the bus replacement/expansion schedule and Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). This request represents the majority of the small bus fleet to be replaced in 2014. Buses will be delivered in September/October 2014 for assignment to following transit programs:

Metro Mobility – 37 replacement buses, 55 expansion buses

Transit Link – 5 replacement buses, 2 expansion buses

Plymouth – 4 replacement buses

Shakopee – 2 replacement buses

SouthWest Transit – 1 replacement bus

Rationale

The purchase of these buses allows for a reliable fleet and quality service. The 49 buses that are scheduled for replacement will have met or exceeded the Council's replacement cycle of five years for small buses. Most of the vehicles, particularly in the Metro Mobility fleet, have mileage between 225,000 and 325,000 miles. The 55 expansion buses are necessary due to continued Metro Mobility ridership growth and modest Transit Link growth. While Metro Mobility experienced 31% ridership growth from 2008 to 2013, the fleet grew by 25% over the same period. The additional buses will bring the spare ratio up to 10% (regular route is 20%) and reduce the need for Peak Demand Overflow taxi service.

This procurement uses the State of Minnesota Cooperative Vehicle Procurement process which is compliant with all State and Federal regulations. The MnDOT vehicle contracts expire on December 31, 2014.

Funding

Federal 5307 formula funds and Regional Transit Capital (RTC) funds will be utilized for these small buses. Capital funding is provided for in Council Action Item 2014-65 First Quarter Budget Amendment to the 2014 Unified Budget. Approval of this recommendation is contingent upon Council approval of Action Item 2014-65 on April 30, 2014.

Known Support / Opposition

This vehicle purchase has the support of the Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee, Plymouth, Shakopee and SouthWest Transit. There is no known opposition.