

### Transportation Committee

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of July 10, 2019

**Subject:** Authorize Execution of Contract Options with Gillig LLC Utilizing the Commonwealth of Virginia's Gillig Bus Contract – 11 Buses

#### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council Authorize the Regional Administrator to exercise bus purchase options utilizing the Commonwealth of Virginia's Contract E194-75548 MA2274 with Gillig LLC, to purchase nine replacement transit buses and two expansion buses in an amount not to exceed \$5,951,000.

#### Summary of Committee Discussion/Questions

Metropolitan Transportation Services - Contracted Transit Fleet Manager Paul Colton presented this item. Cummings asked what happens to buses when they reach the end of their useful life. Colton said sometimes they are used in State Fair service then auctioned off to the public. Sterner asked about the fuel type and efficiency comparison. Colton said they're replacing buses that are 12-13 years old so 3 EPA engine changes on the diesel side have occurred since 2006 so approximately 10-15% improvement in fuel economy but even greater pollution savings. Colton added that electric buses were not considered because they were not budgeted for and there was not a contract to buy off of. MTS Director Thompson said MTS is looking to Metro Transit's deployment of the electric bus fleet to see how the electrification roll-out goes and what can be learned, this will be shared with the suburban providers as it progresses. Atlas-Ingebretson asked if hybrid had not been an option. Colton said hybrid was not considered an option because the cost of the capital equipment is almost double with the fuel savings only about 25%. MTS Director Thompson said if the budget can be expanded, the suburban providers may choose other options but with the buses needed and the budget provided this met their needs the best in this situation. Colton added that every three year there are additional improvements to reduce pollution on the diesel side from the EPA. Sterner asked if these buses can use biodiesel or be converted to. Colton said they can use biodiesel and during most of the year they do use 5-10% biodiesel.

Motion by Fredson, seconded by Gonzalez. Motion carried, **consent** to Council.

## Transportation Committee

Meeting date: June 24, 2019

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of July 10, 2019

**Subject:** Authorize Execution of Contract Options with Gillig LLC Utilizing the Commonwealth of Virginia's Gillig Bus Contract – 11 buses

**District(s), Member(s):** Dist. Dist. 4 – Deb Barber; Dist. 15 – Phillip Sterner; Dist. 16 – Wendy Wulff

**Policy/Legal Reference:** 2018-237 - 2018 Budget Amendment – 3rd Quarter

**Staff Prepared/Presented:** Nick Thompson, Director MTS (651) 602-1754

Jody Jacoby, Director of Purchasing – Metropolitan Council (651) 602-1144

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

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

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

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council Authorize the Regional Administrator to exercise bus purchase options utilizing the Commonwealth of Virginia's Contract E194-75548 MA2274 with Gillig LLC, to purchase nine replacement transit buses and two expansion buses in an amount not to exceed \$5,951,000.

### Background

The Council does not currently have an active forty-foot bus contract with a vendor. Metro Transit staff and Procurement are in the process of releasing a Request for Proposals for forty-foot transit buses. It is anticipated that a vendor will be recommended in the 4th Quarter of 2019.

### Rationale

This purchase includes nine replacement vehicles that will be operated by MVTA and two expansion buses that will be operate by MVTA in the Cedar Avenue Corridor serving the University of Minnesota, and will replace forty-foot low floor buses that will reach the minimum useful life threshold in December 2019. Given the 13-month lead time to order and build the buses, the Council and MVTA would expect to receive the buses in September 2020.

### Thrive Lens Analysis

This purchase enables provision of a reliable transportation alternative for commuters, expands service options to the University of Minnesota (sustainability) and enhances the quality of life in the region by reducing traffic congestion (livability).

### Funding

Purchase of these buses is in the approved Capital Plan and will use federal funds and local funds. The MVTA replacement bus project was approved by the Council as part of the 2018 3rd Quarter Amendment – Business Item 2018-237.

The two expansion buses are part of a federal CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality) expansion bus grant (MN-95-X015) specific to the Cedar Avenue Corridor.

**Known Support / Opposition**

Support - MVTA