

Committee Report

Transportation Committee



Committee Meeting Date: April 8, 2024

For the Metropolitan Council: April 24, 2024

Business Item: 2024-95

Contract – Electric Bus and Charger Purchase Low/No Grant 2021, Contract 24P077

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute contract 24P077 to exercise bus purchase options utilizing the State of Washington Master Contract 06719-01 with Gillig to purchase eight 40-foot electric buses and six electric bus chargers for the Council's regular route services in an amount not to exceed \$ 13,713,087.00.

Summary of Transportation Committee Discussion/Questions

Metro Transit Assistant Director Bus Maintenance Technical Support Jeremiah Riter presented this item. Dolkar asked for clarifying details on the local level. Metropolitan Council Chief Procurement Officer Jody Jacoby noted the new ability to buy in line with federal standardization.

Motion by Morales, seconded by Chamblis. Motion carried.



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District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	FM14-2 - Expenditures for the Procurement of Goods, Services, and Real Estate Policy; Minn. Stat. § 471.345
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Lesley Kandaras, General Manager, 612-349-7513 Brian Funk, Deputy GM/Chief Operating Officer, 612-349-7514 Bruce Cardon Deputy Chief Operations Officer Maintenance, 612-349-7516 Abel Mumbi, Bus Maintenance Director, 612-349-5006 Jeremiah Riter, Bus Maintenance Assistant Director, 612-349-5005 Marilyn Porter, Engineering and Facilities Director, 612-349-7689 Jim Harwood, Engineering and Facilities Assistant Director, 612-349-7339 Carrie Desmond, Electric Bus Infrastructure Manager, 612-349-7798 Jody Jacoby, Procurement Director, 651-602-1144
Division/Department:	Metro Transit Bus Maintenance and Engineering & Facilities

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Background

The Council does not currently have an active forty-foot electric bus contract. The State of Washington released RFP 06719-01 which is a multi-vendor cooperative agreement that is open to all transit agencies. Business Item 2022-260 presented on October 12, 2022, authorized the use of the State of Washington Department of Enterprise Services cooperative agreement for purchase of rolling stock, including electric buses and charging infrastructure.

The Council executed Joint Powers Cooperative Agreement #22I002 with the State of Washington Department of Enterprise Services to utilize Master Contract 06719-0.

Rationale

The execution of a goods contract exceeding \$500,000 requires Council approval.

Thrive Lens Analysis

Investment in high-quality transportation options, such as the Project, will advance the Thrive outcome of Prosperity, by making the region more economically competitive through increased workers' access to employment, and support to employers by increasing available workforce with affordable, convenient transportation.

The Project also advances the Equity outcome by distributing transit resources throughout the region and improving access to jobs, educational opportunities, and health services to diverse communities.

The purchase of electric buses—which were included in the ZEBTP—advances the Thrive outcomes of Stewardship, Livability, and Sustainability. Stewardship is achieved by the ZEBTP Guiding Principles of Technical Viability and Fiscal Impact which seek to ensure that the Council is responsibly managing the region's finite resources and leveraging transit investments through electric bus technology.

Livability is addressed in all aspects of the ZEBTP to promote healthy communities.

Sustainability is addressed by all aspects of the ZEBTP to provide leadership in climate change mitigation.

Funding

Funding for this purchase is available and authorized in Projects 65201 Low/No Grant, 64707 Electric Bus Infrastructure, and 64405 Electric Bus Infrastructure. This purchase is included in the Council's authorized capital budget and the Project budget. This purchase includes funds from the awarded 2021 low or no emissions discretionary grants.

Small Business Inclusion

The Office of Equity and Equal Opportunity (OEEO) does not review procurements of transit vehicles for the purpose of establishing a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal. Transit Vehicle Manufacturers are required to submit a DBE goal methodology directly to FTA. Only those transit vehicle manufacturers listed on FTA's certified list of Transit Vehicle Manufacturers, which includes Gillig, are eligible.

