Committee Report
Transportation Committee

Committee Meeting Date: April 8, 2024
For the Metropolitan Council: April 24, 2024

Business Item: 2024-98
Contract – Electric Bus and Charger Purchase Low/No Grant 2023, Contract 24P077

Proposed Action
That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute contract 23P142 to exercise bus purchase options utilizing the State of Washington Master Contract 06719-01 with Gillig to purchase twelve 40-foot electric buses and sixteen electric bus chargers for the Council’s regular route services in an amount not to exceed $20,449,000.00.

Summary of Transportation Committee Discussion/Questions
Metro Transit Assistant Director Bus Maintenance Technical Support Jeremiah Riter presented this item. Members asked clarifying questions about the joint powers agreement. Metro Transit General Manager Lesley Kandaras spoke to the encouragement received from the FTA to continue using procurements like this.

Motion by Morales, seconded by Vento. Motion carried.
Business Item: 2024-98
Contract – Electric Bus and Charger Purchase Low/No Grant 2023, Contract 23P142

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

Proposed Action
That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute contract 23P142 to exercise bus purchase options utilizing the State of Washington Master Contract 06719-01 with Gillig to purchase twelve 40-foot electric buses and sixteen electric bus chargers for the Council’s regular route services in an amount not to exceed $20,449,000.00.

Background
The Council does not currently have an active forty-foot electric bus contract. The State of Washington released RFP 06719 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 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 06719-01.

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 Project 65401 Expansion Buses. This purchase is included in the Council’s authorized capital budget and the Project budget. This purchase includes funds from the awarded 2023 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.