

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: September 8, 2014

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of September 24, 2014

Subject: Authorization to approve the purchase of three 60' articulated option buses

District(s), Member(s):

Policy/Legal Reference: Contract #13P183

Staff Prepared/Presented: Chuck Wurzinger

Division/Department: Metro Transit Bus Maintenance

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to exercise existing contract options on contract 13P183 with New Flyer Industries to purchase three articulated buses in an amount not to exceed \$2,239,239 contingent on satisfactory results of the Pre-Award Buy America Audit.

Background

The Council executed contract 13P183 with New Flyer of America in March of this year. The contract includes the purchase of 83 sixty foot articulated buses and options for up to an additional 88 buses. Staff must receive Council approval prior to purchasing option buses.

These option buses are needed for service at the newly expanded park and ride facility at Hwy 610 and Noble Pkwy. in Brooklyn Park. The Hwy 610 corridor is a strong market for express bus service and the park and ride at Hwy 610 and Noble Pkwy draws riders from Brooklyn Park, Champlin, Osseo and beyond.

The bus service plan implemented with the grand opening on August 25 has simplified service and provided additional carrying capacity from this park and ride. Several of these trips are currently being served by 40' buses and are ideal candidates for an upgrade to articulated buses. As ridership grows, articulated buses can be a more cost-effective response than providing additional trips.

Rationale

Articulated buses are needed to meet the passenger volume that will be generated from the park and ride facility at Hwy 610 and Noble Pkwy.

Funding

The purchase of the expansion buses is an authorized project in the current Capital Improvement Plan and will utilize federal funds from a CMAQ grant and also local funds.

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition to this purchase.