

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: January 24, 2022

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of February 9, 2022

Subject: Zero Emission Bus Transition Plan Adoption

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Minnesota Statute 473.3927

Staff Prepared/Presented: Wes Kooistra, General Manager

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Carrie Desmond, Principal Engineer Electric Bus Infrastructure

Division/Department: Metro Transit/Engineering & Facilities

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council adopt the Zero Emission Bus Transition Plan for submittal to the MN State Legislature by February 15, 2022 as required by Minnesota Statute 473.3927.

Background

The Zero Emission Bus Transition Plan (ZEBTP) is an aggressive, aspirational, and achievable framework to identify how Metro Transit will continue planning for a transition to a zero-emission bus (ZEB) fleet, including battery electric buses (BEBs). In time, we hope these vehicles are referred to as "buses" and not by their propulsion. An information item detailing the project process and findings was presented to Committee of the Whole on January 5, 2022.

Three guiding principles and six supporting actions were established as the framework for the Transition Plan and for use in defining the definition of a successful transition to ZEBs. The guiding principles are Technical Viability, Equity and Environmental Justice, and Fiscal Impact.

- Technical Viability: Strive to achieve a level of service where zero-emission buses and diesel buses are referred to as just "buses" rather than by their propulsion type
- Technical Viability: Partner with Xcel Energy to assess and upgrade electrical infrastructure for bus operation and maintenance facilities
- Equity and Environmental Justice: Implement and prioritize zero-emission bus service reflecting transparent fact-driven community engagement and education
- Equity and Environmental Justice: Target zero-emission bus investment in communities where air pollution, racial, and socioeconomic disparities are greatest while also balancing the challenges of new technology
- Fiscal Impact: Deploy zero-emission buses in a fiscally efficient manner in order to maximize use of vehicles and infrastructure
- Fiscal Impact: Operate and invest within fiscal means by planning for and optimizing capital and operating expenditures while pursuing new funding streams.

The ZEBTP establishes a short-term target for Metro Transit of at least 20 percent of 40-foot bus replacement procurements to be BEB, from 2022-2027. Additionally Metro Transit plans to update the Council at least once per year on

performance of the ZEB fleet and infrastructure as well as update capital and operating plans annually based on performance. Metro Transit also intends to host public engagement activities at least once per year on ZEBTP progress.

Rationale

Metro Transit is developing the plan in accordance with Minnesota Statute 473.3927. Council adoption of the Zero Emission Bus Transition Plan will establish the Council's vision for ZEB implementation through 2027.

Thrive Lens Analysis

The Zero Emission Bus Transition Plan will advance all five Thrive 2040 Outcomes.

- Stewardship is addressed by the Guiding Principles of Technical Viability and Fiscal Impact to ensure that we are responsibly managing our region's finite resources and leveraging transit investments.
- Prosperity is addressed by the Guiding Principle of Equity and Environmental Justice to ensure we are fostering the conditions for shared economic vitality.
- Equity is addressed by the Guiding Principle of Equity and Environmental Justice by working to build a more equitable region, creating choices for all and engaging the community in decision-making.
- Livability is addressed by all aspects of the plan to promote healthy communities.
- Sustainability is addressed by all aspects of the plan to provide leadership in climate change mitigation.

Funding

The legislature appropriated \$250,000 in fiscal year 2022 for the zero-emission transit vehicle transition plan under Minnesota Statutes, section 473.3927.

Small Business Inclusion

There is no small business inclusion tied to this action.

Known Support / Opposition

Plan development includes a robust process for community engagement along with ongoing engagement with regional stakeholders.