

Business Item

Transportation Committee



Committee Meeting Date: June 12, 2023

For the Metropolitan Council: June 14, 2023

Business Item: 2023-121 SW

METRO Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit – Electric Bus and Charger Purchase

- District(s), Member(s):** District 11 (Vento), District 12 (Cederberg), District 13 (Lee)
- Policy/Legal Reference:** FM14-2 - Expenditures for the Procurement of Goods, Services, and Real Estate Policy; RF 1-7 – Transitway Advancement Policy; Minn. Stat. § 471.345
- Staff Prepared/Presented:** Leslie Kandaras, Acting General Manager, 612-349-7513
Brian Funk, Deputy GM/Chief Operating Officer, 612-349-7514
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
Nick Thompson, Deputy General Manager, 612-349-7507
Alicia Vap, Gold Line Project Director, 612-349-7079
- Division/Department:** Metro Transit Capital Programs – METRO Gold Line Project Office

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council (“the Council”) authorize the Regional Administrator to exercise bus purchase options utilizing the State of Washington’s Master Contract 06719-01 with New Flyer of America Inc, to purchase five sixty-foot electric buses and five electric bus chargers for the METRO Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit project in an amount not to exceed \$10,844,000.

Background

The Gold Line BRT Project (“Project”) is a 10-mile transitway in Ramsey and Washington Counties in the eastern Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. The line will travel between downtown Saint Paul and Woodbury, serving the cities of Saint Paul, Maplewood, Landfall, Oakdale, and Woodbury. The Council executed a Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) with the FTA on April 4, 2023, and has now received all federal and local funding for the \$505 million Project. The Project scope includes the purchase of five electric 60-foot BRT buses, and five electric chargers. Gold Line electric buses and chargers were included in the Council’s Zero-Emission Bus Transition Plan (ZEBTP), completed in February 2022.

The Council executed Joint Powers Cooperative Agreement #22I002 with the State of Washington Department of Enterprise Services for the usage of their master contracts for cooperative purchasing of rolling stock. This agreement allows the Council to purchase rolling stock, including buses and chargers.

Rationale

The execution of a goods contract in excess of \$500,000 requires Council Approval. The Council does not currently have an active sixty-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. Council Procurement staff have reviewed the Washington agreement for FTA compliance and concur that all FTA requirements have been satisfied. Staff must receive Council approval for items and services that are estimated to be more than \$500,000. The benefits of using the Washington agreement for the procurement rather than a separate procurement include: schedule, cost, value, federally compliant, and competitive pricing.

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 the five 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 61402. This purchase is included in the Council's authorized capital budget and the Project budget.

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 New Flyer of America Inc, are eligible.

