



Transportation Committee

Meeting date: February 14, 2011

Metropolitan Council Meeting: February 23, 2011

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date:	February 7, 2011
Subject:	Donated Buses Used for Hurricane Katrina Relief
District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Council Procurement Policy
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Brian Lamb, General Manager, MT, 612/349-7510 Tom Thorstenson, Director, E/F, 612/349-7689 George Serumgard, Project Manager 612/349-7697
Division/Department:	Metro Transit Engineering and Facilities

Proposed Action

Authorize the Regional Administrator to donate two retired 40-ft. Gillig buses for Hurricane Katrina Relief efforts.

Background

In 2005, Hurricane Katrina was one of the five most deadly hurricanes in the history of the United States. Recovery efforts continue to this day. In February 2006, Metro Transit staff sought to designate two retired 40-ft. Gillig buses that could be donated to carry supplies and volunteers to Gulfport / Waveland, Mississippi. The buses were to be used for a relief effort organized by Christ Life Church in Columbia Heights.

Unable to identify suitable Metro Transit buses at that time, Metro Transit staff assisted Christ Life Church by identifying two previously retired buses owned by the Richfield Bus Company. Richfield Bus Company agreed to supply the two buses and requested that they be replaced by Metro Transit when two similar retired buses could be made available.

On March 12, 2007, staff from Christ Life Church and the Council provided an update on the Hurricane Relief effort to the Transportation Committee. Staff asked if the Committee would donate two retired Metro Transit buses scheduled for the established post-service disposal process to replace those provided by the Richfield Bus Company. Chair Mary Hill Smith requested that Bus Maintenance and Purchasing staff arrange to do this.

To complete Chair Mary Hill Smith’s request, staff determined that Council authorization is required to complete the donation.

Rationale

Council authorization is required to complete a donation of two retired 40-ft. Gillig buses. The buses have no remaining service value to the Council, are fully depreciated, have no remaining federal interest and would typically be sold at auction. Recent auctions have indicated such buses have a value of less than \$5,000 each and are below the FTA’s scrap value reimbursement threshold of \$5,000.

Funding

Funding the donation is not required.

Known Support / Opposition

Members of the Transportation Committee in attendance on March 12, 2007 supported Chair Hill Smith’s direction to Council staff.