

T Transportation Committee

Meeting date: September 12, 2011

Metropolitan Council Meeting: September 28, 2011

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date: August 30, 2011

Subject: Authorization to Purchase Two Advanced Hybrid Drive Buses

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Council Procurement Policy

**Staff Prepared/Presented: Brian Lamb, General Manager, 612-349-7510
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Division/Department: Metro Transit Bus Maintenance

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute agreements with Snohomish County Public Transportation Benefit Area Corporation, in Everett, Washington (D.B.A. Community Transit) and New Flyer of America for the purchase of two forty-foot, advanced hybrid buses in an amount not to exceed \$1,289,200. The agreement with Community Transit will allow the Council to piggy-back on their contract with New Flyer for the purchase of these buses. The agreement with New Flyer details the Council’s legal and financial protection relative to this piggy-back bus purchase.

Background

The Metropolitan Council, the University of Minnesota and the Initiative for Renewable Energy and the Environment (IREE) sponsored an energy audit of a Metro Transit hybrid bus in 2008. The results of this audit showed that electrification of engine-driven accessories could yield substantial increases in fuel economy. Purchasing these advanced hybrid buses will allow Metro Transit to test this concept in actual practice.

These buses should be able to operate on electric power only inside the garage and at other locations for short periods of time. In order for this to happen, the heating, ventilating, air conditioning, radiator fans, power steering and air compressor will be operated electrically. Work will also begin on researching ways to shut these buses off at stops.

Community Transit has an existing contract with New Flyer that allows the purchase of series hybrid buses with electric accessories. New Flyer can deliver the first bus in the first half of 2012, depending on when Notice to Proceed is given, and the second bus shortly thereafter.

The Community Transit contract with New Flyer meets FTA procurement guidelines, including the Buy-American provisions, and Community Transit is willing to allow the piggyback purchase of two buses off their contract with New Flyer. These two buses will replace two buses scheduled for retirement in 2012.

Rationale

This investment also reflects the Council's commitment to maintain and preserve regional transit investments and is in alignment with the objectives of the unified capital programming process. Further, purchasing these buses will afford Metro Transit the opportunity to evaluate the energy saving potential, reliability and life cycle costs associated with operating buses on electric power in bus garages and on portions of certain urban routes.

Funding

Metro Transit was awarded a TIGGER II grant which will cover the federal funding for these buses. The local match was included in this year's Capitol Budget Amendment #1, and an additional required \$60,000 in match is included in Council Business Item 2011-206 "2011 Unified Capital Program Amendment" which is going to the Metropolitan Council on September 14, 2011.

Known Support/Opposition

There is no known opposition to the proposed action.