

T Transportation Committee
Metropolitan Council meeting of March 24, 2010

Date

Prepared: March 23, 2010

Subject: Authorization to Purchase 11 Sixty-Foot Articulated Transit Buses

Proposed Action:

That the Metropolitan Council:

- rescind the authorization granted in Business Item 2009-433 to purchase 11 replacement articulated buses from King County Transit in Washington state, and
- authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a purchase agreement with New Flyer of America using the State of Minnesota Contract No. 442668 for the purchase of eleven replacement articulated buses in an amount not-to-exceed \$6,900,000, contingent on satisfactory results from the Pre-Award Buy America Audit.

Summary of Committee Discussion / Questions:

Staff responded to Committee member questions about the pricing compared to similar procurements and about previous Council bus procurements.

T Transportation Committee
Meeting date: March 22, 2010

Metropolitan Council Meeting: March 24, 2010

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date: March 12, 2010
Subject: Authorization to Purchase 11 Sixty-Foot Articulated Transit Buses
District(s), Member(s): All
Policy/Legal Reference: Council Procurement Policy
Staff Prepared/Presented: Brian Lamb, Metro Transit General Manager, 612-349-7510
Vince Pellegrin, Chief Operations Officer, 612-349-7511
Julie Johanson, Deputy Chief Operations Officer –Bus, 612-349-7514
Chris Gran, Director Purchasing, 612-349-5060
Jan Homan, Director Bus Maintenance, 612-349-5000
Chuck Wurzinger, Asst. Director Bus Maintenance, 612-349-5007
Division/Department: Metro Transit Bus Maintenance

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Background

Metro Transit is replacing 40 articulated buses that will achieve 12 years of age in 2010. Metro Transit had 29 option buses remaining from a 2006 contract with New Flyer and a Notice to Proceed was issued for these 29 buses in August of 2009 using ARRA funds. This leaves a balance of 11 buses scheduled for replacement.

In December of 2009 the Metropolitan Council authorized Metro Transit to procure 11 buses from an assignment of buses from King County Transit via Business Item 2009-433. Discussions with King County Transit have reached an impasse over indemnification language in the contract and talks have been discontinued.

New Flyer of America was recently awarded a contract with the State of Minnesota, and this contract is available to the Council as a member of the State's Cooperative Purchasing Venture program. The estimated contract price is \$622,000 per bus and this is fair and reasonable based on comparison to recent prices paid by the Council for articulated buses.

Rationale

This investment 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.

Funding

Funding for these replacement articulated buses is contained in the 2010-2015 Capital Improvement Plan in project 61611.

Known Support/Opposition

There is no known opposition to the proposed action.