

# Agenda Report

August 12, 2013

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council  
**FROM:** Department of Transportation  
**SUBJECT: AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF SEVEN COMPRESSED NATURAL GAS BUSES FOR THE PASADENA AREA RAPID TRANSIT SYSTEM FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$ 2,940,000**

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council:

- 1) Find that the purchase of these vehicles is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15302, replacement of existing transit facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity;
- 2) Authorize the issuance of a purchase order contract to Creative Bus Sales, without competitive bidding pursuant to City Charter Section 1002 [H], contract with other government entities or their contractors, in an amount not to exceed \$2,940,000 for the purchase of seven 32-foot buses, all of which operate on compressed natural gas; and
- 3) Grant the proposed purchase order contract an exemption from the competitive selection process of the Competitive Bidding and Purchasing Ordinance pursuant to Pasadena Municipal Code Section 4.08.049 (B), contracts for which the City's best interest are served.

## **BACKGROUND:**

Through the 2011 Metro Call for Projects, the City was awarded funds to purchase six Compressed Natural Gas buses to replace six diesel fuel buses. In 2012, the City was awarded funds for the purchase of one expansion bus through the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Job Access and Reverse Commute program. The proposed recommendation is to purchase six 32-foot Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) EIDorado E-Z Rider II BRT replacement buses and one 32-foot CNG EIDorado E-Z Rider II BRT expansion bus for the Pasadena Area Rapid Transit System (ARTS), for a total purchase of seven 32-foot CNG buses.

The six replacement buses are funded with the \$1,839,600 2011 Metro Call for Projects grant and \$693,233 in Proposition A Los Angeles County Sales Tax Local Return funds to improve service quality, help meet existing ridership demand and keep the City in compliance with California Air Resources Board (CARB) heavy-duty vehicle fleet

regulations. The purchase of these replacement buses will help minimize service interruptions due to vehicle reliability problems and provide more seamless travel for ARTS passengers.

The purchase of one 32-foot CNG-fueled expansion bus will be used to add capacity to the ARTS Route 20 as part of the \$1,987,285 grant from the FTA awarded to the City through the JARC program. The City's JARC program will improve access to transportation services to employment and employment-related activities for low income individuals by increasing the frequency of this route from every 35 minutes to every 24 minutes. The target population served by this program is Northwest Pasadena, as well as the West Altadena community which borders Pasadena along the city's northern border. This area has the highest rates of poverty and unemployment in the city. The one expansion bus is fully funded with no local match and will build much needed capacity into Route 20 that serves this area. The remainder of the funds in the JARC grant (\$1,580,118) will pay for expanded transit operations over the grant period. The additional service on the ARTS Route 20, effective July 1, 2013, is currently being provided via a leased bus while waiting for the purchase of the new bus. The leased bus is funded by the operating dollars in the JARC grant.

In November 2009, the Morongo Basin Transit Authority (MBTA), a member of the California Association of Coordinated Transportation (CalACT), formed the CalACT/MBTA Vehicle and Materials Purchasing Cooperative (Cooperative), which developed the bid documents and product specifications for a competitive price-based procurement process for several classes of transit vehicles to be used by participating governmental agencies. The selection process the Cooperative followed meets federal requirements as well as the City's purchasing requirements. As a participating member of CalACT, the City is eligible to use this bid for the purchase of transit vehicles. Purchasing the requested equipment from Creative Bus Sales would be in the City's best interest because it would save the City \$175,000 on the purchase of the vehicles over factory-based pricing (because the Cooperative has negotiated a volume-based discounted price for this class of bus).

**COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:**

The proposed action is consistent with the following goals of the Strategic Plan: Improve, Maintain and Enhance Public Facilities and Infrastructure; Increase Conservation and Sustainability; and Improve Mobility and Accessibility throughout the City. This purchase of six CNG ARTS buses will enhance the ARTS by helping to minimize service interruptions due to the current deteriorating condition of the six aging ARTS buses in the fleet and will replace diesel buses to help attain the City's goal to reduce particulate matter and smog-forming emissions, per the United Nations Urban Environmental Accords (UEA) Action 14. In addition, the one expansion bus will enhance the ARTS by helping implement the Mobility Element and encourage non-auto travel by increasing much needed frequency to Route 20, the most heavily used route in the system.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:**

The purchase of these vehicles is categorically exempt from the CEQA review pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15302, Class 2 Replacement or Reconstruction. Class 2 exempts from CEQA replacement or reconstruction activities that involving negligible or no expansion of capacity. In this case, the proposed purchase of seven buses would replace six City-owned ARTS buses and one City-leased ARTS bus. The purchase of these buses would allow the City to continue its current service, including the additional frequency of Route 20 that began on July 1, 2013.

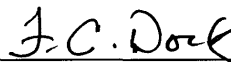
**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The cost of this action will be \$2,940,000. Funding for this action will be addressed by the utilization of existing budgeted appropriations in the FY2014 Capital Improvement Program Project 75051, *Purchase of Fixed-Route Transit Vehicles*, as shown in the following table:

Proposition A Los Angeles County Sales Tax	\$ 693,233
Metro 2011 Call for Projects - Federal Flexible CMAQ Funds	\$ 1,839,600
FTA – Job Access and Reverse Commute Funds	\$ 407,167
Total Sources	\$ 2,940,000

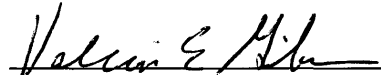
Issuance of the purchase order at this time will guarantee the City a place in the production schedule for the transit vehicles. The seven new buses will be operated and maintained under the City's ARTS service contract with First Transit, Inc. Funding for the ARTS operations and vehicle maintenance is included in the FY 2014 Operating Budget, Fund 8114-209-775600.

Respectfully submitted,



FREDERICK C. DOCK  
Director  
Department of Transportation

Prepared by:

  
Sebastián Hernández  
Planner

Approved by:

  
MICHAEL J. BECK  
City Manager

**Disclosure Pursuant to the  
City of Pasadena Taxpayer Protection Amendment  
Pasadena City Charter, Article XVII**

Contractor/Organization hereby discloses its trustees, directors, partners, officers, and those with more than 10% equity, participation, or revenue interest in Contractor/Organization, as follows:

*(If printing, please print legibly. Use additional sheets as necessary.)*

**1. Contractor/Organization Name:** Creative Bus Sales, Inc.

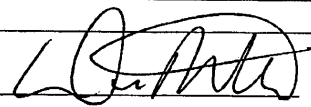
**2. Type of Entity:**  
 non-government     nonprofit 501(c)(3), (4), or (6)

**3. Name(s) of trustees, directors, partners, officers of Contractor/Organization:**

Anthony Matijevich - President
Terry McCrea - CFO
Vicky Matijevich - Secretary

**4. Names of those with more than a 10% equity, participation or revenue interest in Contractor/Organization:**

Anthony Matijevich - President

Prepared by: Don White 

Title: Contract & Transit Sales

Phone: (909) 465-5528

Date: 6-24-13