

Agenda Report

March 13, 2017

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

THROUGH: Municipal Services Committee (February 28, 2017)

FROM: Department of Transportation

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE ALL AGREEMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE RECEIPT OF GRANT FUNDING FROM THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY FOR THE PASADENA BUS PURCHASE TO RELIEVE SIGNIFICANT OVERCROWDING PROJECT

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Find that the proposed action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) (General Rule); and
2. Authorize the City Manager to execute all agreements associated with the receipt of grant funding of \$1,364,577 from the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority for the Pasadena Bus Purchase to Relieve Significant Overcrowding- project.

BACKGROUND:

The proposed project will provide funding to purchase four (4) 35-foot, CNG fueled, low floor, fixed route transit buses to relieve significant service deficiencies associated with the overcrowding on the heaviest routes of the Pasadena Transit system.

The Pasadena Transit routes with the heaviest demand are Routes 20, 31/32, and 40. These routes carry over 85% of the 1.6 million passengers carried annually and experience severe overcrowding on a daily basis. Currently 32-foot transit buses are assigned to these routes; however, between 8% and 15% of all the trips on Route 20, 31/32 and 40 reach capacity. The recent opening of the Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension has placed added strain on these routes. The 35-foot expansion vehicles will

help alleviate the overcrowding on these routes by adding about 25% capacity without increasing the operating budget.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:

The proposed action is consistent with the following goals of the Strategic Plan: Improve, Maintain and Enhance Public Facilities and Infrastructure, Improve Mobility and Accessibility throughout the City, and Support and Promote the Quality of Life and Local Economy. The purchase of these buses will enhance the system by adding capacity on heavily-traveled routes. Furthermore, the purchase of these buses will help implement the Mobility Element of the General Plan to encourage non-auto travel by adding additional revenue vehicles to the fleet.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

The proposed action has been determined to be exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 (b)(3), the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA. Such is the case with the proposed approvals, authorizations, and agreements related to the receipt of grant funding for the purchase of additional busses. No direct physical changes to the environment are proposed. The additional busses would be CNG fueled and would generate greenhouse gas (GHG) and air pollutant emissions at lower levels than diesel fueled busses. Such emissions would be negligible and well below air quality and GHG significance thresholds due to the limited, if any, increase in vehicle miles traveled (VMT) that would result from the additional busses. The additional busses would improve the City's transit service, which would reduce total VMT in the City.

FISCAL IMPACT:

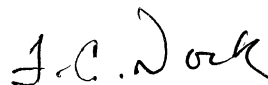
The cost of this action will be \$1,977,647. Approval of this action will allow the City to obtain \$1,364,577 through the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority to implement this project. The City's required one-time match of \$613,070 will be funded by utilization of the existing budgeted appropriations in the Capital Improvement Program Project 75085, *Purchase of Fixed Route Transit Vehicles*. It is anticipated that 100% of the cost will be spent during fiscal year 2018.

The four expansion vehicles will be operated and maintained under the City's transit services contract with First Transit, Inc. This contract for the fixed route operations and vehicle maintenance is included in the Department of Transportation's operation budget.

The following table presents a summary of the sources of funds that will be used.

Fund 209 Prop C Local Return	\$ 613,070
MTA Local Transportation Funds (LTF)	\$ 1,364,577
Total Sources	\$ 1,977,647

Respectfully submitted,



FREDERICK C. DOCK
Director
Department of Transportation

Prepared by:



Sebastian A. Hernandez
Senior Planner

Approved by:



STEVE MERMELL
City Manager