



Agenda Report

July 17, 2017

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

THROUGH: Municipal Services Committee (July 11, 2017)

FROM: Department of Transportation

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF FOUR ADDITIONAL CAPACITY 35-FOOT COMPRESSED NATURAL GAS (CNG) BUSES FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$2,140,320 TO RELIEVE SIGNIFICANT OVERCROWDING ON PASADENA TRANSIT

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);
2. Authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract with New Flyer of America Inc. for the procurement of four (4) additional capacity 35-foot Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) buses for Pasadena Transit in an amount not to exceed \$2,140,320, including a contingency of \$82,320. Competitive Bidding is not required pursuant to City Charter Section 1002(H) contracts with other governmental entities or their contractors for labor, materials, supplies or services; and
3. It is further recommended that the City Council grant the proposed contract an exemption from the Competitive Selection process pursuant to Pasadena Municipal Code Section 4.08.049(B) contracts for which the City's best interests are served.

BACKGROUND:

The City was awarded local grant funds through the 2015 Metro Call for Projects to purchase four 35-foot CNG buses with added capacity to alleviate current overcrowding on the most used Pasadena Transit routes and to accommodate additional ridership to help meet demand. The proposed recommendation is to purchase four low floor, 35-

foot CNG XN35 – Xcelsior, New Flyer buses for Pasadena Transit. These vehicles are heavy duty transit vehicles with a service life of 12 years. In February 2017, the City Council authorized the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Metro for the receipt of \$1,364,577.

The vehicles being purchased with these grant funds will be used on Pasadena Transit routes with the heaviest demand, including 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 Routes 20, 31/32 and 40 reach capacity and cannot accommodate all the riders needed to board. The recent opening of the Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension has placed added strain on these routes. A total of 13 buses are used to operate these routes during the peak service periods. The 35-foot expansion vehicles in this project will help alleviate the overcrowding on these routes by adding about 25% passenger capacity per bus without increasing the operating budget.

In June 2015, staff was notified of the preliminary award for this grant and began to contact other transit agencies in the Los Angeles area for potential joint procurement opportunities. Long Beach Transit (LBT) was in the process of developing a federally compliant Request for Proposal (RFP) for over 100 vehicles and invited Pasadena to participate in the joint procurement. As part of the joint procurement with LBT, Pasadena was part of an extensive pre-proposal process, including providing input to the RFP requirements and attending the pre-proposal meeting to answer questions from vendors about Pasadena Transit specific issues. Pasadena was not part of the evaluation committee; however Pasadena Transit's vehicle specifications were included and Pasadena was formally named on the published RFP. In January 2016, the LBT Board authorized the selection of New Flyer of America, Inc. to manufacture the vehicles for LBT and Pasadena.

Long Beach Transit received proposals from two bus manufacturers, New Flyer of America, Inc. and Gillig Corporation. Proposals were evaluated based on the qualifications and experience, technical design and bus operational considerations. New Flyer of America, Inc. was also the lowest price. Pasadena is able to purchase up to six vehicles from this procurement. This current purchase is for four vehicles and staff anticipates purchasing the remaining two in Fiscal Year 2019 per another recent grant award.

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 buses. No direct physical changes to the environment are proposed. The additional buses would be CNG fueled and would generate greenhouse gas (GHG) and air pollutant emissions at lower levels than diesel fueled buses. 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 buses. The additional buses would improve the City's transit service, which would reduce total VMT in the City.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The cost of this action will be \$2,140,320. Funding for this action will be addressed by the utilization of existing Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budgeted appropriation in the Purchase of Fixed Route Transit Vehicles Project (75085). The purchase is expected to be completed by the end of FY 2018.

The following table presents a CIP project budget summary:

Project Budget Summary	
Base Contract Amount	\$ 2,058,000
Contingency (4%)	82,320
TOTAL CONTRACT AMOUNT	\$ 2,140,320

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

Funding Sources Summary	
Metro 2015 Call For Projects – Local Transit Funds	\$ 1,364,577
Fund 209 Prop C Local Return	775,743
TOTAL FUNDING	\$2,140,320

The four (4) new buses will be operated and maintained under the City's transit operations contract with First Transit, Inc. This contract for the fixed route operations and vehicle maintenance is included in the Department of Transportation's operating budget.

Respectfully submitted,



for

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