

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT: PURCHASE OF TWO ARTICULATED CYRIDE BUSES**

**BACKGROUND:**

In 2010, CyRide was awarded a Clean Fuels (CF) national discretionary grant for the purchase of two articulated 62' buses, replacing three 40' buses. CyRide received 90% federal funding for these vehicles, requiring a 10% local match to be secured from CyRide's capital budget.

Since approval of the CF grant, CyRide staff has been researching how articulated buses will physically be incorporated into the fleet as well as determining the best firm to construct these buses for CyRide. Demonstrations by various articulated bus manufacturers have identified the NOVA articulated bus to be the best "fit" for CyRide due to its stainless steel body, which will wear better in Iowa's corrosive winter weather conditions, and the wider design of the interior, which will benefit the large passenger loads experienced on CyRide's Orange Route from the Commuter lot through campus. An illustration showing the NOVA articulated bus is provided below.



Funding for these two buses is detailed below.

<b>Federal Funds</b>	<b>Local Funds</b>	<b>Total Funds</b>
\$1,256,940	\$139,060	\$1,396,600

The local funds are included in CyRide's capital budget and in the City's 2012/17 Capital Improvements Plan. If approved, the buses could be delivered in the fall of 2012.

The Transit Board of Trustees approved award of this purchase to NOVA Bus at its February 16, 2012 meeting.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve a contract with NOVA Bus Inc. for the purchase of two articulated buses at a cost not to exceed \$1,396,600.
2. Do not approve a contract for the purchase of these buses.

**MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

CyRide has programmed local funding that is needed to complete this purchase. This bus purchase will replace three 40' existing buses that average more than 21 years old that operate less efficiently, produce more emissions, and are less reliable. This purchase will reduce CyRide's operating expenses and improve its fuel efficiency in the short and long term, while also helping to improve air quality in Ames.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby approving a contract with NOVA Bus, Inc. for the purchase of two articulated buses in an amount not to exceed \$1,396,600.