

ITEM#: 16  
DATE: 3-23-21

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT: AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR CYRIDE ARTICULATED BUS PURCHASE**

**BACKGROUND:**

Over the past several years CyRide has been working to increase the number of 60-foot articulated buses in the fleet. These larger vehicles allow for higher passenger capacity during peak periods and reduce the need to operate extra buses. Increasing the number of these buses follows recommendations from both the Alternatives Analysis Study of the Orange Route Corridor in 2016 and the System Redesign Study in 2017, which supported expanding the use of articulated buses on the #23 Orange route.

CyRide currently owns six 60-foot articulated buses, all manufactured by NOVA Bus of Plattsburg, New York. The Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) has four additional articulated buses programmed, with one purchase each year between FY 2020/21 and FY 2023/24. Expanding to a total of ten articulated buses would allow the #23 Orange route to be run exclusively with these vehicles.

The following sources are available to fund the FY 2020/21 articulated bus project and are programmed in the CIP:

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Federal Share (80%)</b>	<b>Local Share (20%)</b>	<b>Total Funding</b>
Section 5307	\$383,360	\$95,840	<b>\$479,200</b>
Section 5309	\$80,362	\$20,091	<b>\$100,453</b>
Section 5307 – Surface Transportation Block Grant	\$225,000	\$56,250	<b>\$281,250</b>
<b>Funding Share Summary</b>	<b>\$688,722</b>	<b>\$172,181</b>	<b>\$860,903</b>

This new bus would replace an existing 40-foot bus that is past its useful life, moving CyRide closer to meeting its federal Transit Asset Management (TAM) plan goals. Newer buses provide significantly cleaner emissions and a lower operational cost per mile.

Reviewing options for procurement, CyRide has determined the most cost-effective method for purchasing this new bus is utilizing a state cooperative procurement schedule. Statewide purchasing schedules allow CyRide to reduce administrative time and leverage the buying power of many agencies, which would not otherwise be available if CyRide were to pursue an independent procurement process.

After an analysis of available options, the State of Washington contract has been identified as offering the best value for CyRide. The use of another state's procurement

schedule is authorized under the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act for grantees acquiring rolling stock and related equipment.

CyRide's current fleet of NOVA articulated buses have proven to be cost effective and reliable. There are significant savings realized by keeping the articulated bus fleet standardized to one manufacturer, including a reduction in spare parts inventory, lower costs for additional training, and quicker repair times. As a result, CyRide has selected NOVA Bus to be the original equipment manufacturer for this purchase.

NOVA Bus has provided a quoted price of \$760,740 for one articulated bus. Purchases of additional technologies such as automatic vehicle location hardware, automatic vehicle annunciators, and automatic passenger counters are still being considered for these buses and will be maintained within the overall project budget. CyRide will continue to refine bus specifications until approximately six months before the vehicles are built, at which point the manufacturer will provide updated pricing.

Since vehicle pricing is not finalized until late in the process, CyRide is requesting approval of award at the not-to-exceed amount of \$860,903 (the total of available funding). The delivery date of the bus will be approximately 6 to 8 months after a purchase order is issued.

The Transit Board of Trustees approved the award of the contract at its March 19, 2021 meeting.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve the award of contract for one 60-foot articulated bus to NOVA Bus of Plattsburg, New York, for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$860,903.
2. Do not approve the contract award for the purchase of a new 60-foot articulated bus.

**CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

The purchase of this new articulated bus will move CyRide closer to the goal of operating the #23 Orange route exclusively with articulated buses. This new bus will also help CyRide achieve its asset plan goals and increase the overall sustainability of the fleet.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, as noted above.