

ITEM #: 27  
DATE: 06-27-23  
DEPT: Transit

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT: CYRIDE LOW-FLOOR CUTAWAY BUS PURCHASE AWARD OF CONTRACT**

**BACKGROUND:**

CyRide was awarded funding from the Iowa DOT to assist with purchasing three new low-floor cutaway buses. Two buses would be utilized within CyRide’s revenue fleet and the third would be leased to HIRTA, the Dial-A-Ride contactor. The budget for these vehicles is shown below.

<b>Vehicle Replacement</b>	<b>State/Federal</b>	<b>Local</b>	<b>Total</b>
Two Low-floor cutaway buses (CyRide)	\$345,058	\$60,892	\$405,950
One Low-floor cutaway bus (HIRTA)	\$168,506	\$29,737	\$198,243
<b>Total Funding Available</b>	<b>\$513,564</b>	<b>\$90,629</b>	<b>\$604,193</b>

**These vehicles will be 85% state and federally funded, with the remainder coming from local sources. The local funding was included in the FY 2021/22 and FY 2022/23 Capital Improvements Plans, with additional funds approved by the Transit Board in February 2023.**

The low-floor cutaway bus design would be new to CyRide and HIRTA’s fleet. CyRide has historically purchased high-floor cutaway buses with steps and a powered wheelchair lift. A low-floor cutaway design allows stepless boarding for all passengers and provides a quicker and more dependable wheelchair-loading experience for CyRide’s ADA passengers by using a manually deployable ramp.

CyRide has evaluated bus options and has identified New England Wheels’ Frontrunner model as the best available vehicle. The design includes a true flat floor between the passenger entrance door and the rear axle, bonded and screwed panels, and a manually deployable ramp with gas spring assist. The bus has a lower gross vehicle weight rating, allowing it to utilize a smaller engine that has improved fuel economy. The vehicle also has a fully composite body with a dip-galvanized chassis, providing longevity against corrosion.

CyRide has worked with Hoglund Bus of Marshalltown, Iowa, the New England Wheels dealer, to determine pricing. There are additional equipment requirements to operate a bus on CyRide’s fixed route services such as destination signs, fareboxes, etc. As a result, the price has been quoted at \$202,975 per bus for CyRide and \$198,243 for the bus leased to HIRTA, for a total of \$604,193. The anticipated delivery timeline would be six to eight months after a purchase order is issued.

The Transit Board of Trustees approved award to Hogleund Bus Company of Marshalltown, Iowa at their meeting on June 15, 2023.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve award of a contract to Hogleund Bus Company of Marshalltown, Iowa, in the amount of \$604,193 for the purchase of three new 176" wheelbase low-floor cutaway buses.
2. Do not approve award of contract for the purchase of new low-floor cutaway buses.

**CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

The purchase of three low-floor minibuses will support CyRide's goal of increasing mobility and improving accessibility to all customers. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1.