

ITEM#: 12
DATE: 11-23-21

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: CYRIDE AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR ARTICULATING BUS PURCHASE

BACKGROUND:

Over the past several years CyRide has been working to increase the number of 60-foot articulated buses in the fleet to a total of ten so the #23 Orange route can be operated exclusively with articulated buses. These larger vehicles allow for a higher capacity of passengers during peak periods, reducing the need to operate extra buses.

CyRide currently owns six 60-foot articulated buses, all manufactured by NOVA Bus of Plattsburg, New York and the purchase of a seventh 60-foot articulated bus was approved and awarded to NOVA Bus in March 2021 by the Transit Board of Trustees and the Ames City Council. The Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) has one articulated bus programmed each year through FY 2024 bring the total articulated buses fleet to ten.

The following sources are available to fund the FY 2021/22 articulated bus project and are programmed in the CIP.

Item	Federal Share	Local Share	Total Cost
Section 5307	\$410,426	\$102,606	\$513,032
Section 5307 – Surface Transportation Block Grant	\$225,000	\$56,250	\$281,250
Local Funding	-	\$55,718	\$55,718
Funding Summary	\$635,426	\$214,574	\$850,000

If approved, this eighth articulating 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.

As with the articulated bus approved for purchase in March 2021, 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. The use of another state's procurement schedule is authorized under the FAST Act for grantees acquiring rolling stock and related equipment. The State of Washington contract has been identified as offering the best value for CyRide.

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.

The estimated price from NOVA Bus has been quoted at \$796,333. The purchase of additional technologies like 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 to NOVA Bus of Plattsburg, New York, at the not-to-exceed amount of \$850,000. 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 contract to Nova Bus at their November 10, 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 \$850,000.
2. Direct staff to proceed according to Council priorities.

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 TAM 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.