

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: **CYRIDE MINIBUS AWARD OF CONTACT**

BACKGROUND:

CyRide was awarded Section 5310 (Enhanced Mobility of Seniors & Individuals with Disabilities) funding for two low-floor minibuses through the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT). The Transit Board approved budget for this purchase is as follows:

Funding Source	Amount
Section 5310 Funding (73%)	\$249,917
Local Funding (27%)	\$91,666
Total Funds Available	\$341,583

Local funding for this grant was included in the FY 2021/22 Capital Improvements Plan at \$312,396. As a result of industry wide cost increases, the Transit Board directed staff to utilize funds from the operations fund closing balance to cover the budget shortfall, increasing the total funds available to \$341,583.

The IDOT completed a statewide invitation for bid for ADA accessible low-floor light duty 176" wheelbase buses in fall 2021. Transit agencies in the State of Iowa can use the resulting contracts to purchase buses, saving agencies administrative time and money.

The two buses planned for replacement are now ten years old, well past the Transit Asset Management (TAM) plan's useful life benchmark of eight years. Replacing these buses would lower CyRide's operating costs, provide a more comfortable ride for customers, and move CyRide closer to the TAM plan performance targets.

The low-floor minibus bus design would be new to CyRide's fleet. CyRide has historically purchased high-floor minibuses with steps and a powered wheelchair lift. A low-floor minibus 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 the two successful bidders on the Iowa DOT contract and identified New England Wheel's Frontrunner model as the best option for CyRide's fleet. The design considerations that set the Frontrunner apart are 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 which allows it to utilize a smaller engine, improving fuel economy. The vehicle also has a fully composite body with a dip-galvanized chassis, providing longevity against corrosion.

CyRide has worked with the New England Wheel dealer listed on the IDOT contract, Høglund Bus of Marshalltown, Iowa, to determine pricing for the specifications required to meet CyRide's standards. The price of each bus has been quoted at \$167,432. The anticipated delivery timeline would be six to eight months after a purchase order is issued.

New England Wheel does not offer paint or vehicle wrap services. The anticipated cost of adding paint or a vehicle wrap would be approximately \$10,000 per bus and is included in the operating budget.

The Transit Board approved this purchase at its meeting on April 27, 2022.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve award of a contract to Høglund Bus Company of Marshalltown, Iowa, in the amount of \$341,583 for the purchase of two new 176" wheelbase low-floor minibuses.
2. Do not approve award of contract for the purchase of new minibuses.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The purchase of two 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.