

ITEM #: 21
DATE: 11-28-23
DEPT: Transit

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: CYRIDE BATTERY ELECTRIC BUS PURCHASE AWARD OF CONTRACT

BACKGROUND:

Both the City of Ames and Iowa State University have set carbon reduction goals. In support of these initiatives, CyRide partnered with the Center for Transportation and the Environment (CTE) to develop a Zero Emission Roadmap to deploy electric bus technology through 2030. As a result, it was determined that up to 17 battery electric buses (BEBs) could operate within the current route structure. CyRide has already purchased two BEBs, which were put into service in July 2023.

CyRide received two federal grants from the Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) and one federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funded through the Ames Area Metropolitan Planning Organization for the replacement of up to five 40’ diesel buses with BEBs. **The local funding for was included in the FY 2023/24 Capital Improvements Plan, with additional funds approved by the Transit Board in November 2023.**

In 2021, the State of Iowa joined the Washington State heavy-duty transit bus procurement, allowing Iowa public entities to purchase buses through this established contract. Section 3019 within the FAST Act allows grantees to purchase rolling stock and related equipment from cooperative procurement out-of-state contracts. CyRide has evaluated the bus manufacturers available on the contract and identified Gillig LLC as the preferred manufacturer. Currently, CyRide has 55 diesel Gillig low-floor buses in its fleet, and feedback from other transit agencies with Gillig BEBs has been positive. Purchasing from Gillig LLC would allow for the commonality of parts and tooling and leverage CyRide’s familiarity with the bus design, layout, and drivability.

CyRide worked with Gillig to receive pricing based on the Washington State contract. The price per bus has been quoted at \$1,157,896 for a total purchase price of \$5,789,480 for five DEBs. The anticipated delivery date of these buses is 18 to 24 months after a purchase order is issued.

The following budget has been reserved for this project.

Funding Sources	Funding		
	Federal	Local	Total
Bus & Bus Facilities Discretionary (Section 5339)	\$2,218,500	\$391,500	\$2,610,000
Urbanized Area Formula Funding (Section 5307)	\$2,034,634	\$359,053	\$2,393,687
STBG Funding	\$225,000	\$56,250	\$281,250
Additional Local Funding		\$504,543	\$504,543
Revised Total Project Budget	\$4,478,134	\$1,311,346	\$5,789,480

At its meeting on November 16, 2023, the Transit Board of Trustees approved the award of contract to Gillig LLC of Livermore, California, for a total cost not to exceed \$5,789,480.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve award of contract to Gillig LLC of Livermore, California, for a total cost not to exceed \$5,789,480 for the purchase of five 40' battery electric buses.
2. Do not approve award of contract for the purchase of new 40' battery electric buses.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Awarding a contract to Gillig LLC for five battery electric buses would allow CyRide to take a large step toward fulfilling the goal of equipping its fleet with up to 17 battery electric buses while reducing CyRide's carbon emissions. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1.