

ADVANCED TRANSIT VEHICLE CONSORTIUM


Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
One Santa Fe Ave., MS 63-4-1,
Los Angeles, CA 90012

JUNE 22, 2016

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FROM: JOHN DRAYTON
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: RECEIVE AND FILE UPDATE FTA ZERO EMISSION BUS GRANT FOR METRO'S ORANGE LINE



RECOMMENDATION

Receive and file this update on FTA Zero Emission Bus Grant for Zero Emission New Flyer Articulated buses for Metro's Orange Line (MOL).

ISSUE

In April 2016, The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced that Metro and ATVC were selected to receive \$4.275 million in federal grant funds from the 2015 Federal Transit Administration's "Low or No Emission Vehicle Deployment Program" (LoNo) grant program.

BACKGROUND

LoNo Funding: For the 2015 LoNo program, FTA announced grant funding awards for a total of \$22.5 million in federal funding to seven transit providers in five states. Funding in this program is directed toward transit buses and related facilities that utilize battery-electric, fuel cell, and other innovative technologies that can help reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions and improve operating efficiency. This funding was awarded after a highly-competitive review process that prioritized transit agencies and bus manufacturers with strong records in building, deploying, and operating clean buses and infrastructure.

Project Description: Metro and ATVC will use LoNo funding to purchase five battery electric articulated buses from New Flyer of America, along with five shop chargers and three en-route high voltage chargers. The en-route charging equipment will be installed at both ends of the Metro Orange Line; this will allow these all-electric buses to run all day without any need for midday charging. The project budget includes funding for vehicles, charging equipment, equipment installation, training, and vehicle deployment.

The project timeline is to have buses and equipment delivered during fall 2017, and to start operation during the first quarter of 2018.

New Flyer Designated as a "Key Party": In accordance with FTA guidelines for the LoNo program, Metro/ATVC proposed in its LoNo application that New Flyer be designated as a "Key Party" by the FTA. FTA considers that the competitive nature of the LoNo program constitutes adequate competition for purposes of satisfying third party contracting requirements. New Flyer will be eligible to receive a noncompetitive contract award for this project if FTA approves its designation as a "Key Party".

Service Proven Buses and Charging Systems: New Flyer was selected as Metro/ATVC's project partner based on their recent success with Metro's 900 bus contract (OP33202869). New Flyer will use their "Xcelsior" articulated bus platform. These buses will use conventional sub-systems and components that are service proven and already in use here at Metro. These buses will be built around a proven Siemens electric ELFA drive system and will carry an estimated 250Kwh in an electric battery storage system. The rapid en-route charging stations will be provided by Eaton Corp., using proven charging systems that are currently used in Europe.

Funding Availability: The grant award and any related contract actions cannot be executed until FTA provides pre-award authority or executes a grant funding agreement. FTA authorization to proceed with this project is expected later this year. If there is a delay in executing grant funding agreements, then the project implementation schedule will be moved back accordingly.

DETERMINATION OF SAFETY IMPACT

There is no anticipated safety impact for operating zero emission electric buses on Metro's Orange Line. New Flyer is expected to utilize components and sub systems that are service proven in similar heavy duty applications, are commercially available, and are currently used in transit buses.

Zero emission buses use high voltage electrical systems. These systems are isolated from operators and passenger compartments. Maintenance personnel will receive specialized training to ensure they are prepared to maintain these higher voltage propulsion systems.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Total LOP funding of \$10.15 million is included in the Vehicle Technology Cost Center (3320) in project 201071. For FY17, there is \$4.275 million in FTA LoNo funding programmed to cover expenses for purchasing these buses. Metro/ATVC will provide \$5.875 in local Measure R funding for local match.

Because this is a multi-year contract, the ATVC President and the Cost Center Manager will be responsible for ensuring that future year funding is programmed.

Impact to Budget

Source of funds: FTA LoNo Funding; Prop C 40%; TDA Article 4; Measure R 35% (bus capital); SLPP Prop 1B; Prop 1B PTMISEA; CMAQ (Refer to Attachment A, funding plan).

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Not applicable.

NEXT STEPS

FTA LoNo funding is expected to be released later in 2016. Once LoNo funding becomes available, Metro and ATVC will bring a contract award recommendation to Metro's Board of Directors for the purchase of articulated buses and equipment under the FTA LoNo grant program.

Attachment A: Funding/Expenditure Plans

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Executive Vice President

Copies: ATVC Board Members and Alternates
Phillip A. Washington, Metro CEO
Stephanie N. Wiggins, Metro Deputy CEO
James T. Gallagher, Metro COO
Jesus Montes, Executive Director, Vehicle Acquisition

ATTACHMENT A

**NEW FLYER ZERO EMISSIONS ARTICULATED BUS
FUNDING/EXPENDITURE PLANS**

In Thousands	FY17 +	Total	% of Total
Uses of Funds			
Bus Acquisition	\$7,500,000	\$7,500,000	73.9%
Charging Equipment	\$2,650,000	\$2,650,000	26.1%
Total Project Cost	\$10,150,000	\$10,150,000	100.0%

In Thousands	FY17+	Total	% of Total
Sources of Funds			
Measure R 35%	\$5,875,000	\$5,875,000	57.9%
FTA LoNo Funding	\$4,275,000	\$4,275,000	42.1%
Total Project Funding	\$10,150,000	\$10,150,000	100.0%

Initial sources of funding planned for Measure R 35%. Staff will apply other federal, state and local sources as they become available and applicable to project sources.