



City of Racine, Wisconsin
AGENDA BRIEFING MEMORADUM

AGENDA DATE: Transit Commission, Thursday January 26th, 2023

PREPARED BY: Trevor Jung, Transit & Mobility Director

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Communication sponsored by Alder Jones, on behalf of the Transit & Mobility Director, requesting authorization to execute an agreement to purchase 4 Proterra 35 ft fixed-route electric transit buses for approximately \$4,485,007.00.

GRANT BACKGROUND:

The City of Racine was awarded funding through the Federal Transit Administration’s FFY22 Low or No Emission Vehicle Program - 5339(c) for the purchase of 4 35 ft fixed-route electric transit buses. The purpose of the Low or No Emission Vehicle Program - 5339(c) is to support the transition of the nation’s transit fleet to the lowest polluting and most energy efficient transit vehicles. The Low or No Emission Vehicle Program - 5339(c) provides funding to state and local governmental authorities for the purchase or lease of zero-emission and low-emission transit buses, including acquisition, construction, and leasing of required supporting facilities.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law provides \$5.5 billion over five years for the Low-No Program—more than 10 times greater than the previous five years of funding. For Fiscal Year 2022, \$1.1 billion were awarded for 100 projects in 40 states in addition to Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C. The City of Racine was the only recipient of these funds in Wisconsin.

Approximately 5% of the grant award will be used for workforce development activities related to operating and maintaining zero emission technology, in addition to the electric transit bus purchase.

ANALYSIS:

The City of Racine has electrified 25% of its transit fleet, leading the State of Wisconsin in transit vehicle electrification. This effort continues to improve service, enhance savings, and embrace sustainability in the RYDE Racine transit system. This purchase is possible through a grant award, which will bring the total of electric buses in the RYDE Racine fleet to 13, nearly 40% of the fixed-route transit fleet.

These 4 electric buses will replace 4 2011 diesel buses, which in 2023 will reach their useful life benchmark. Useful Life Benchmark is defined by the FTA as, “the expected life cycle or the acceptable period of use in service for a capital asset, as determined by a transit provider, or the default benchmark provided by FTA.” The FTA’s ULB for fixed-route 35 ft buses is 12 years and/or 500,000 miles. It is anticipated by 2023 that both benchmarks measuring useful life will be met for the aforementioned fleet.

On April 16th, 2018, the City of Racine Common Council passed Res.0122-18 declaring its commitment to reducing its carbon footprint and supporting the goals of the Paris Climate Accord adopted on December 12, 2015. Continuing electrification of RYDE Racine’s fixed-route transit fleet will contribute to the goals that the City of Racine has established related to CO2 reduction.

On October 24th, 2022, the City of Racine Common Council granted permission to accept funding through the Federal Transit Administration's FFY22 Low or No Emission Vehicle Program - 5339(c) for the purchase of 4 35 ft fixed-route electric transit buses.

BUDGETARY IMPACT:

Total approximate cost of the vehicle replacement project is \$4,485,007.00 with grant amount being \$3,796,872, local match of \$688,135 available in the capital plan under 60282011 57310 82006.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized and directed to execute the agreement to purchase four Proterra 35 ft fixed-route electric transit buses for approximately \$4,485,007.00.