



City of Racine, Wisconsin
AGENDA BRIEFING MEMORADUM

AGENDA DATE: Common Council, Tuesday May 17th, 2022

PREPARED BY: Trevor Jung, Transit Manager

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Communication sponsored by Mayor Mason, on behalf of the Transit Manager, requesting permission to apply for funding through the Federal Transit Administration’s FFY22 Low or No Emission Vehicle Program - 5339(c) for the purchase of 5 35 ft fixed-route electric transit buses.

GRANT BACKGROUND:

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, approximately \$1.1 billion is available for grants under this program.

FTA is encouraging applicants to provide information on how their proposed project will support the Justice40 Initiative by identifying disadvantaged communities that the projects will benefit through jobs, increased safety, resiliency, access to transit, and reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. The City of Racine shares these goals, therefore will reflect these objectives in the application.

Note: Direct referral necessary due to effort to identify alternative sources for local match through state agencies. Federal application due May 31st.

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.

If awarded, these electric buses would replace 5 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.

BUDGETARY IMPACT:

Total cost of electric bus purchase \$4,045,000 with grant amount being \$3,438,250, 20% local match of \$687,650 available in the capital plan under 45010 59600.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That the Transit Manager be granted permission to apply for funding through the Federal Transit Administration's FFY22 Low or No Emission Vehicle Program - 5339(c) for the purchase of 5 35 ft fixed route electric transit buses.