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Legistar Item: 13-8856

To: Racine Transit & Parking Commission Members

From: Al Stanek

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) has announced a funding opportunity that has the potential to provide 80% funding to replace the Belle Urban System DART vans that will reach the end of their serviceable life in 2015. CMAQ funding would become available in 2015. The application deadline is this June 14th.

The Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) program requires that projects have a measurable positive air quality improvement component and would likely only be available to fund alternative fuel vehicles and required infrastructure. Alternatively fueled para transit vans will likely cost more per vehicle upfront but will reduce operating costs. The 20% local share cost to replace 10 vans and accommodate alternative fuels will likely be in the \$250,000 to \$300,000 range.

We are examining the potential of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) for DART vans because of their reduced operating costs per mile and air quality benefits. The City of Racine has a CNG fueling station but not a garage area that meets CNG repair station standards.

I'm going to accelerate information gathering on repair facility requirements and CNG vehicle costs to provide a basis to determine if this is a viable option. The availability of Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding for other than alternative fuel vehicles to replace DART vehicles is very uncertain at this point.