



City of Racine, Wisconsin AGENDA BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

AGENDA DATE: Transit Commission, January 29th, 2026

SUBJECT: Communication sponsored by Alder Horton, on behalf of the Transit & Mobility Director requesting permission to execute an agreement to purchase two Gillig 35'ft fixed-route transit buses for approximately \$1,600,000.

PREPARED BY: Trevor Jung, Transit & Mobility Director

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: RYDE Racine has an aging fixed-route vehicle fleet in need of replacement to meet service demands and operational needs. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation's 2025's Public Transit Assistance Program (PTAP) will contribute to the replacement of two fixed route transit buses.

These two fixed route vehicles will have met their useful life benchmark at the time of their replacement. According to the Federal Transit Administration, these vehicles will meet their useful life benchmark (ULB) based on years in service and projected miles traveled by the year of replacement.

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 transit vehicles is 12 years and/or 500,000 miles. In addition to FTA standards for replacement vehicles, the deteriorating condition of the vehicles call for replacement. The updated fixed-route vehicles will result in improved customer experience and reduced maintenance costs.

The City of Racine will purchase two vehicles through a Purchasing Consortium. A purchasing consortium is a collaborative arrangement where organizations combine their requirements for goods, works, and services to gain better pricing. This qualifies as a competitive purchase made through a state contract, which establishes and documents procurement procedures and enables the City of Racine to buy directly under shared contractual agreements established by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation.

BUDGETARY IMPACT: Total approximate cost of the vehicle replacement project is approximately \$1,600,000 with 2025 PTAP grant amount being \$624,250, local match of \$641,750 available in the capital plan under 60282011 57310, and \$334,000 available in insurance recovery.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: That the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized and directed to execute the agreement to purchase two Gillig 35'ft fixed-route transit buses for approximately \$1,600,000.