



Department Source: Public Works

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: October 4, 2021

Re: Authorizing a Cooperative Agreement with Washington State Department of Enterprise Services for the Purchase of City of Columbia Transit Buses.

Executive Summary

Staff is requesting Council authorize the City Manager to execute the Washington State Transit Bus Cooperative Agreement with Washington State Department of Enterprise Services. This cooperative agreement will provide a significant savings to the city on the purchase of transit buses, based on volume.

Discussion

In 2020, the City of Columbia applied for and received two (2) federal grants to replace buses and para-transit vans, the total grant award, including the city's match was \$4,415,847. Council authorized the appropriation of the federal grant funds at the September 7, 2021 City Council meeting. GoCOMO now has the opportunity to enter into an agreement with Washington State Department of Enterprise Services that will provide significant savings on bus purchases based on volume. The term of the agreement is sixty (60) months, it will renew automatically for subsequent one (1) year periods unless either party gives the other written notice of termination at least ninety (90) days prior to expiration of the current term.

Since 2007, GoCOMO has used Gillig, LLC (Gillig) compressed natural gas (CNG) buses and has found them to be extremely mechanically and structurally reliable. Mike Guilford, the city's Fleet Operations Manager said, "By continuing to purchase Gillig buses that are compatible with the existing fleet, labor costs for repairs will be reduced because of our mechanic's familiarity with the brand, and the amount of parts inventory that Fleet Operations must stock to support maintenance of the buses will also be reduced". Another consideration to support continuing to purchase Gillig buses is driver familiarity. By keeping the different bus brands to a minimum, it provides for easier transition for transit staff to move from bus to bus, and be comfortable operating the bus in a safe manner.

While having a conversation with New Flyer, another bus vendor we have used, the representative also pointed us to the Washington State cooperative agreement, as it is a multi-vendor agreement and has the best pricing at this time. Authorizing this cooperative agreement will allow GoCOMO to practice good stewardship and equip the transit fleet with safe, reliable, and sound vehicles at a significant savings.

GoCOMO has received a quote from Gillig for the purchase of three (3) 35 foot CNG buses at a cost of \$511,371, per bus. Staff will proceed with procurement of the buses, once the



City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Washington State Transit Bus Cooperative Agreement has been executed. The production start dates for the buses will be within 12 months from receipt of the city's purchase order.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: Savings to GoCOMO Transit of approximately \$20,000- \$30,000 per bus over vehicles purchased directly from the company, outside of the cooperative agreement.
Long-Term Impact: Unknown at this time

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

[Strategic Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Resilient Economy, Secondary Impact: Secondary, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

[Comprehensive Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Mobility, Connectivity, and Accessibility, Secondary Impact: Inter-Governmental Cooperation, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Legislative History

Date	Action
09/07/2021	B267-21 Amending the FY 2021 Annual Budget by appropriating funds for the purchase of buses and para-transit vans for the GoCOMO Public Transit System

Suggested Council Action

Approve the ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute the Washington State Bus Cooperative Agreement with Washington State Department of Enterprise Services for the purchase of transit buses.