

The Ames Transit Agency Board of Trustees met on December 6, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. for a special Conference Call meeting. President Rediske called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. Present: Trustees Rediske, Murrell, Goodman, and Madden. Absent: Trustees Drenthe and Schinker.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: No public.

NEW BUS PURCHASE: Director Kyras explained that CyRide had received a national grant award for six buses in 2012 and that the local share for three of these buses had been included in CyRide's current year capital plan and that three were included in 2014-2015 capital plan. She further explained that staff had been searching for a national bus procurement to be a part of for their purchase; however, FTA had declared several of these bids to be non-compliant. As a result, CyRide had been working with FTA to determine if the Minnesota DOT procurement could be used and recently received a letter from the FTA stating that if transit system's had started working with the Minnesota DOT prior to April 23, 2013, and if the buses could be included in a purchase order by December 31, 2013, transit systems could purchase Gillig buses from this procurement. CyRide met both of these criteria.

CyRide has received pricing from Gillig Corp at \$415,297.50 per bus, for a total cost of six buses at \$2,491,785. The federal share of these buses will be 83%, requiring a local share of \$423,603 for the six buses. Purchase of these vehicles will require transit board and City Council approval. The City Council's next meeting is on December 17, 2013. She further shared that to delay the purchase of buses past December 31, 2013 would most likely increase the per bus cost by \$10,000, based on past annual increases, for a total cost increase for six buses of \$60,000.

Director Kyras explained that there is currently a 17-18 month backlog of buses from Gillig Corp. so the buses to be purchased are not be scheduled to arrive until 2015. She indicated that all local match funds will be accumulated by this date. Further, she provided that information regarding the last three buses was included in the Capital Improvement Plan presented at the December 4, 2013 Transit Board meeting. She indicated that staff recommended awarding the purchase to Gillig Corp. for the six buses.

Trustee Madden indicated it was a good time to move forward and purchase the buses. Trustee Madden asked how many bus manufacturers there were. Rich Leners, Asst. Director Fleet indicated that there are currently three manufacturers, but that it is preferable to standardize the fleet.

Trustee Madden made a motion to approve Alternative #1 to award six 40' buses to Gillig Corporation of Hayward, California for \$2,491,785. Trustee Murrell seconded the motion.

President Rediske asked if there was any further discussion.

Trustee Goodman requested a clarification as to which Capital Plan contained the six buses. Director Kyras stated that the first three buses were approved in the 2013-2014 CIP, and the other three were included in the 2014-2015 CIP, discussed by the Transit Board at the December 4, 2013 meeting, but awaiting approval by the board at their January 2014 meeting. Trustee Goodman asked if the grant required buying new buses. Director Kyras indicated that it did.

Trustee Madden shared his view that this bus purchase might be the last opportunity to purchase new vehicles, while at the same time saving money, so he believed that the transit board should take advantage of the opportunity.

President Rediske called for the vote: Ayes: Four. Nays: None. Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 4:09 p.m.