



Report No: 15-251b
Meeting Date: December 14, 2016

Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District

STAFF REPORT

TO: AC Transit Board of Directors
FROM: Michael A. Hursh, General Manager
SUBJECT: Procurement of Five (5) Additional Double Deck Buses

ACTION ITEM

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Consider authorizing the General Manager to exercise a contract option with Alexander Dennis for the purchase of five (5) additional double deck buses.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

In September 2016, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) programmed \$40 million in funding for the Bay Bridge Forward package of improvements to help ease congestion on the Bay Bridge corridor. As part of this package the District received \$5 million in federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds to purchase five (5) additional double deck buses. The buses will expand service by providing additional capacity to overcrowded Transbay routes. Through the Bay Bridge Forward funding, the District was also awarded two years of operating funds for these buses. The Board authorized the General Manager to execute agreements with the MTC for implementation of the Bay Bridge Forward improvements during the September 28, 2016 Board meeting.

The District issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the procurement of ten double deck buses, with options for up to nineteen additional buses. The District received one proposal from Alexander Dennis, Inc. Upon receipt of the proposal, the AC Transit technical evaluation team reviewed and scored the proposal based on a pre-defined evaluation matrix. Two external advisors also reviewed and scored the proposal based on the same evaluation matrix. The external advisors were from the UniTrans-University of California, Davis and WestCAT-Western Contra Costa Transit Authority as these agencies will hold options under the contract to acquire three and six double deck buses, respectively.

On August 10, 2016 the Board approved the award of a contract to Alexander Dennis for the base order of ten (10) double deck buses. These double deck buses are expected to arrive in fiscal year 2017/18 and will assist in replacing the high capacity MCI bus fleet. Staff is now returning to the Board for authorization to exercise the District's option for five additional buses.

BUDGETARY/FISCAL IMPACT:

The bus purchase will be funded with \$5 million in federal CMAQ funds awarded to AC Transit through the MTC Bay Bridge Forward program. There is no required match for the funds since the District is utilizing toll credits through MTC to fulfill the local match requirement.

ADVANTAGES/DISADVANTAGES:

Award of this contract will provide the District with additional high capacity buses for Transbay service. The advantages of procuring these buses are:

- A high capacity bus with a shorter length than articulated buses
- Acceptable maneuverability in downtown and residential areas
- No additional maintenance for the articulated joint as with a sixty-foot bus
- Improved air quality and fuel economy
- Increased ridership and reduced congestion

ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS:

Staff has considered other bus types for high capacity service, but was unable to find any alternative high capacity buses that would meet the service requirements of the District. In reviewing forty-foot suburban bus alternatives, the thirty-six (36) passenger seats would not meet peak service demands for Trans-Bay service. Articulated buses with fifty-two (52) seats would provide more passenger accommodations, but still less seating capacity than the eighty (80) seats available in the double deck bus. The double deck buses will provide the maximum number of passenger seating along with the shortest high capacity bus length to provide maneuverability in residential and downtown areas.

PRIOR RELEVANT BOARD ACTION/POLICIES:

AC Transit Board Policy No. 350 Procurement Policy

16-251 - Bay Bridge Forward Transbay Funding and Service

15-251 – Procurement of Double Deck Buses

15-251a – Contract Award for Purchase of Double Deck Buses

ATTACHMENTS:

1. None

Approved by: James D. Pachan, Chief Operating Officer

Reviewed by: Denise C. Standridge, General Counsel
Claudia Allen, Chief Financial Officer
Jon Medwin, Director of Purchasing and Materials
Chris Andrichak, Manager, Capital Planning & Grants

Prepared by: Stuart Hoffman, Technical Services Manager