

Transportation Department


TRANSIT DIVISION-Administration

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 9, 2019

TO: Brenda Billingsley, Director, Purchasing Division

FROM: Chris Walton, Director, Transportation Department 

SUBJECT: Request to Piggyback on the Commonwealth of Virginia Contract, RFP No. E194-193, Low Floor Transit Buses and Heavy Duty 12-year (30, 35, 40 and 60 foot sizes) with Gillig, LLC

Broward County Transit (BCT) has an immediate need to secure a contract for the purchase of a total of 147 low-floor diesel Gillig transit buses. Of these buses, 120 will be 40-foot Gillig transit buses and 27 will be 35-foot Gillig transit buses. BCT is requesting approval to piggyback on the existing Commonwealth of Virginia Contract, Request for Proposal, RFP No. E194-193, Low Floor Transit Buses and Heavy Duty 12 year (30, 35, 40, 60ft sizes) with Gillig, LLC.

The recently passed Broward County Transportation Surtax Plan includes provisions for the immediate expansion of BCT bus services to enhance the mobility of the citizens of Broward County by increasing the availability of public transit. In order to meet the requirements of the Surtax Plan in a timely manner, BCT needs to expand its existing fleet by 147 buses as soon as possible.

In addition, BCT also has FTA requirements to ensure that transit bus fleets remain in a "state of good repair" by replacing them when their useful life is exceeded. The FTA established life expectancy for a transit bus is 12-years or 500,000 miles. Currently, the BCT fleet has 137 vehicles that have exceeded these thresholds and are eligible for replacement. The continued use of these vehicles beyond their useful life results in accelerated maintenance costs and increases the number of failures in service.

Given the long lead times for bus production, especially for an order of this size, BCT needs to facilitate the acquisition of these 147 buses to meet the service demands for system expansion and the regular replacement of older buses. This piggyback contract provides BCT with the mechanism to accelerate the delivery of these buses to achieve our important operational, priorities in a timely manner.

The benefits of using the Commonwealth of Virginia contract for this bus purchase include:

- Gillig advised they will deliver the pilot bus in October 2019 and begin delivery of the buses in by January 2020, with all buses delivered by the end of the third quarter of 2020, as opposed to the industry standard lead-time of approximately fourteen (14) to eighteen (18) months from the notice to proceed.

- Additional delays in ordering buses would place Broward County behind the existing bus orders of other agencies causing extensive delays in the delivery of these needed buses.
- The Commonwealth of Virginia contract includes optional items that meets all of the County's technical specifications requirements.
- The provision of additional stocking of parts is also available in the Virginia contract, which is more cost effective and offers more time to discuss future bus parts orders with current contracted bus parts vendors.

The Federal Transit Administration allows transit systems to purchase vehicles on a piggyback of other transit contracts and procurements that were bid (competitively) in compliance with the FTA guidelines. BCT previously purchased transit buses piggybacking on an agreement between Metropolitan Council, Minnesota, and Gillig, LLC, in June 2017 and this procurement method has proven to be an effective way to accelerate the delivery of necessary rolling stock.

Therefore, BCT is requesting your consideration and approval for piggybacking on the Commonwealth of Virginia, contact with Gillig, LLC., for the purchase of 147 Low-Floor, diesel transit buses, including spare parts, training and manuals.

For additional information, please contact James Fourcade at JFourcade@broward.org or 954-357-8441.