



M E M O R A N D U M
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
TRANSIT DIVISION
County of Placer

TO: Board of Supervisors DATE: February 16, 2021
FROM: Ken Grehm, Director of Public Works
By: Will Garner, Deputy Director of Public Works
SUBJECT: Zero Emission Bus Feasibility and Transition Plan

ACTION REQUESTED

Authorize the Director of Public Works, or designee to award and execute an agreement with WSP USA Inc. to conduct a Zero Emission Bus Feasibility and Transition Plan for Placer County Transit and Tahoe Truckee Area Regional Transit in the amount of \$343,525 and authorizing the Director of Public works, or designee, to execute any amendments in compliance with the Public Contract Code, up to 10 percent of the original contract amount.

Approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$343,525 to Fund 21401 – Placer County Transit using \$183,225 from reserves (Budget Amendment AM-00431/JE100-0026205) in Fund 21401 – Placer County Transit and \$160,300 from Sustainable Transportation Infrastructure grant funds (Budget Amendment AM-00430/JE100-0026205) to conduct a zero emission bus feasibility and transition plan.

BACKGROUND

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) Innovative Clean Transit (ICT) regulation requires all public transit agencies in California to transition to zero emission buses by 2040. Placer County fits the definition of a Small Transit Agency under the ICT regulation. As such, Placer County has a longer timeframe to begin implementing the ICT regulation. Beginning in 2026 25% of Placer County’s new bus purchases must be zero emission buses. Beginning in 2029, 100% of all new bus purchases must be zero emission buses.

In 2018, the Board of Supervisors approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Neighborhood Partners, LLC to facilitate a grant application to the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). The grant application submitted by Neighborhood Partners was successful. In July of 2020, the Board of Supervisors approved an assignment agreement with Neighborhood Partners. Under the assignment agreement Placer County will receive \$3,580,000 in California Sustainable Transportation Infrastructure grant funds toward new buses, charging facilities, and bus maintenance equipment. With this grant funding the County intends to begin the zero emission bus program in Tahoe Truckee Area Regional Transit (TART), starting in 2023.

To get started, the County needs to prepare a detailed implementation plan to determine how zero emission bus technology will be implemented into current and future transit operations. This will also meet the requirement to submit a zero-emission bus rollout plan to CARB by July 1, 2023.

The most common zero emission bus technology is battery electric power. However, the study will consider other zero emission options such as hydrogen fuel. The work will be done for both Placer County Transit (PCT) and TART. The work includes a review of the current bus fleet, future fleet needs, service mileage, operating hours, existing maintenance facilities and available electrical service from Pacific Gas & Electric and Liberty Utilities. Service modeling will be conducted to determine the percentage of service that can be electrified based on battery capacity and operational scenarios. Zero emission facility concepts and a phasing strategy will be developed along with a transition plan and timeline. From that work a more detailed power and energy analysis, cost and

lifecycle analysis and preliminary facility design will be developed. The result will be a set of 30% design documents for the charging/fueling stations within the existing transit garage locations in Auburn and at Cabin Creek.

The proposal from WSP USA Inc. (WSP) was solicited pursuant to Placer County Purchasing Policy Section 3.5(A), which permits contracting with a vendor that was awarded an agreement by another public agency as the result of the competitive process without further competitive bidding by Placer County. WSP was chosen from a recent on-call consultant list established by the Placer County Transportation Planning Agency (PCTPA) through a competitive selection process. Staff from Placer County DPW participated on the selection committee with PCTPA. WSP's proposal is based on the PCTPA contract pricing structure. WSP has conducted over sixty zero emission projects worldwide, including eleven in California. WSP has a team that specializes in zero emission bus implementation for public transit entities and is an expert in the CARB ICT regulations.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

. The proposed action is exempt from environmental review pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") Guidelines § 15626 (feasibility and planning study); Public Resources Code § 21080(b)(10) (modernization of existing passenger or commuter services or parking facilities); Public Resources Code § 21080.25(b)(6) (project to construct or maintain infrastructure for zero-emission transit buses); CEQA Guidelines § 15306 (information collection).

FISCAL IMPACT

The implementation plan will begin in the current fiscal year and be completed in FY 2021-22. The proposed budget amendment will add \$343,525 to Fund 21401 – Placer County Transit in the current fiscal year. Reserves in the amount of \$183,225 (Budget Amendment AM-00431/JE100-0026205) within Fund 21401 – Placer County Transit will be moved into the current year budget. The remaining \$160,300 (Budget Amendment AM-00430/JE100-0026205) will be paid from the Sustainable Transportation Infrastructure grant from Neighborhood Partners. Adequate reserves are available in PCT Fund 21401 without impact to operations or future capital expenses.

ATTACHMENTS

None

On File with Clerk of the Board: Draft Contract with WSP USA Inc to conduct a Zero Emission Bus Transition Plan