

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## ACTION ITEM

Item Number: BA2021-38

Meeting Date: March 22, 2021

Item Title: Purchase of Light/Medium Revenue Vehicles

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### **BACKGROUND**

In March 2020, due to the growing spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and reduced ridership demand, Trinity Metro operated limited essential services (Sunday service + Express routes). Moving to a modified weekday service schedule allowed Trinity Metro to enforce the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) requirements to exercise social distancing to protect both riders and operators. Effective June 21, 2020, Trinity Metro resumed regular service with select route changes as ridership on modified routes showed an upward trend.

An hourly ridership analysis of all routes was conducted. The analysis determined the utilization of smaller vehicles on low ridership routes would be more efficient and cost-effective than the 35' or 40' larger transit vehicles currently used. Smaller vehicle use would also make more 40' buses available for high ridership routes.

A Request for Proposal (RFP 21-T008) was advertised locally on Trinity Metro's website and through its Bonfire electronic solicitation process for the initial purchase of twelve (12) light/medium duty ADA compliant revenue vehicles, including options to purchase up to thirty (30) additional vehicles over the next five (5) years.

The solicitation resulted in one (1) firm responding: Alliance Bus Group, offering the New England Wheels Fontrunner Dodge Promaster low floor ADA compliant gasoline-powered cutaway vehicle. The proposal documents received were evaluated against a matrix of requirements by an evaluation committee. The evaluations were based on Technical Specification Compliance, Experience and Competency of Contractor, Contractor Resource and Supply Support, Delivery Schedule, and Cost.

A price analysis was also conducted that included comparing the cost of the New England Wheels Fontrunner Dodge Promaster low floor ADA compliant cutaway vehicle with the 30' ADA compliance low floor cutaway vehicle recently purchased from Creative Bus Sales. The price analysis determined that the per-unit price of \$139,869 for the New England Wheels offered vehicle was considered fair and reasonable.

### **AUTHORIZATION AND COST HISTORY**

The cost for the requested twelve (12) light/medium ADA compliant low floor vehicle to be purchased is \$139,869 per-unit, for a total cost of \$1,678,428. The optional purchase price for the 30 additional vehicles over the 5-year contract term will be purchased at the base price of \$139,869 plus the Producer Price Index (PPI) at the time of order.

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**PROCUREMENT**

Trinity Metro's Procurement Department has followed procurement policy with RFP 21-T008 and complies with all applicable Federal, State, and Trinity Metro's procurement requirements.

**FINANCING**

These purchases are supported by the CARES Act grant that has already been drawn as funds are fungible. Funding for future options to purchase more vehicles under the contract will be considered in those years' proposed capital budgets.

**DBE UTILIZATION**

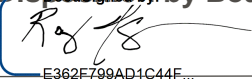
Alliance Bus Group has complied with the requirements of 49 CFR Part 26.49, which is the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal-setting requirement for transit vehicle manufacturers. Transit vehicle manufacturers are required by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to establish and submit, for FTA approval, an annual overall DBE percentage goal.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Planning, Operations, and Marketing Committee recommends the Trinity Metro Board of Directors authorize the President/Chief Executive Officer to enter into a five-year Contract Agreement with Alliance Bus Group for the initial purchase of twelve (12) light/medium duty ADA compliant vehicles for \$139,869.00 per unit, for the total cost of \$1,678,428.00 with an additional contingency of 3% (\$50,352.84) for a total not-to-exceed cost of \$1,728,780.84.

And, authorize the President/Chief Executive Officer to include in the contract the option to purchase 30 additional New England Wheels Fontrunner Dodge Promaster low floor ADA compliant cutaway vehicle over the five-year contract term. Request for the purchase of all contracted options will be approved by the Board Directors before placing an order.

**Disposition by Board of Directors**

  
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Mar-23-2021

**Secretary Approval:**

**DATE**

