



TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Lee R. Feldman, ICMA-CM, City Manager

DATE: February 18, 2014

TITLE: Resolution adopting GRANT APPLICATION– Federal Transit
Administration “Low or No Emission Vehicle Deployment Program”
including local match.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Commission adopt a Resolution authorizing application for the “Low or No Emission Vehicle Deployment Program” grant and authorizing the proper City officials to execute the grant application for the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to replace no less than five (5) and up to eight (8) community bus service vehicles with low emissions vehicles, including soft match (non-cash) requirements and ancillary equipment to support those vehicles including possible cash match requirements

Background

The City is requesting approval to apply for up to \$5,000,000 to replace at least five of the “SunTrolley” system trolleys that have reached the end of their useful life, with low emissions vehicles under the FTA’s new “Low or No Emission Vehicle Deployment Program”, known as the NoLo Program and any equipment necessary to operate these vehicles. This program is part of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) and all eligible expenses are attributable for purposes of complying with the Clean Air Act. Applications are due March 10 2014.

The NoLo Program provides funding for transit agencies for capital acquisition and leases of zero or low-emission transit buses. Low emission vehicles are defined as “buses powered by an engine that produces lower non-methane hydrocarbons (NMHC) and oxides of nitrogen (NOx) than are legally permitted under the Environmental Protection Agency’s engine standards at 49 CFR part 86.” The grant program also provides for possible ‘scalability’ to replace additional vehicles in future years in increments of one or two additional buses.

The not-for-profit “Center for Transportation and the Environment” (CTE) will prepare the grant application at no charge to the City and will propose themselves as the project management team in the grant application. In essence, the City will leverage CTE’s experience writing FTA vehicle replacement grants for no-emissions bus

technologies, and their technical expertise in preparing vehicle procurement specifications and turnkey project management. The grant allows the management costs that will be provided in the scope.

The specific trolleys to be purchased will be determined after CTE's review of the community bus operating environment and the resulting Request for Proposals. The City will be an active partner in that process. The NoLo Program pays 85% of the total vehicle replacement cost and the City will request State Toll Revenue Credits as "soft match" of up to \$882,000. The Program also pays 90% of the cost of the related equipment and facilities. If any equipment or facilities, such as vehicle chargers, are needed to support the selected type of vehicle, a funding plan for the 10% match of up to \$180,000 will be presented to the Commission for approval prior to award of the grant.

It is anticipated that the grant award announcements will take place late this fiscal year or early fiscal 2014-2015 and the purchase will be in fiscal 2014-2015. The City will advance the cost of purchasing the trolleys and be reimbursed by grant funds. If awarded to the City, an agreement with FTA will be presented for approval and funds will be appropriated at that time.

Resource Impact

There is no fiscal impact to the City at the time of application. If the \$5MM grant application is awarded, \$542,500 will be required as the City's match to this grant. The Transportation and Mobility Department will apply for toll revenue credits through the Florida Department of Transportation program in order to offset the City's required match.

Strategic Connections:

1. This item is a *Press Play Fort Lauderdale Strategic Plan 2018* initiative, included within the **Internal Support Cylinder**, specifically advancing:

Goal 12 – Be a leading government organization, managing resources wisely and sustainably.

Objective 3 – Provide safe, efficient and well-maintained vehicles, equipment and facilities and integrate sustainability into daily operations.

2. This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035 Vision Plan: We Are Ready*.

Exhibit 1 – Resolution

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