

RIVERSIDE TRANSIT AGENCY  
1825 Third Street  
Riverside, CA 92507

May 26, 2005

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THRU: Larry Rubio, Chief Executive Officer

FROM: Vince Rouzaud, Director of Purchasing and Materials Management

SUBJECT: Authorization to Award a Contract to Creative Bus Sales, Inc., for Five (5) Caltrans Type (IV), Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliant, Accessible Minivans

Summary: Staff is requesting authorization to award a contract to Creative Bus Sales, Inc., for five (5), ADA compliant, Accessible Minivans. The minivans are replacement vehicles for vehicles that have exceeded their useful life as defined by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and will be used to provide specialized transportation services for seniors and persons with disabilities.

Staff is recommending the purchase of minivans to augment the larger 12-passenger vehicles that currently make-up the Agency's paratransit fleet. In addition to the lower acquisition costs, the minivans may have some operational advantages over the larger 12-passenger vehicles such as improved fuel efficiency, lower maintenance costs, better maneuverability as well as easier access for persons with disabilities.

If approved, the minivans will add flexibility to the Agency's delivery of ADA services. Trips not requiring the use of the Agency's standard 12-passenger vehicle can be provided on the smaller, more economical minivan. The minivan cannot replace the standard vehicle for all ADA trips, however, having a mixture of vehicles in the fleet may help to control and/or reduce operating costs where possible. Staff continues to look for opportunities to reduce operating costs while improving the delivery of ADA services.

The minivans seat up to 4 ambulatory passengers or 2 wheelchair positions that are accessible via a manual fold-out ramp.

At the ADA Quarterly Committee meeting on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, staff had available a demonstration vehicle for the ADA community to look carefully at and provide feedback. The comments from the ADA community were overwhelmingly favorable. Many commented that they felt the smaller vehicle

would provide a more “personalized” service since they are more like a standard passenger vehicle. Others felt the minivans would provide a smoother ride making their trip more pleasant. The only concern raised was the minivan may not be able to accommodate passengers utilizing a Semi-Prone Wheelchair due to their size and length. Passengers utilizing a Semi-Prone Wheelchair would continue to be transported on the standard 12-passenger vehicle.

Staff recommends awarding a contract off of the State of California’s contract to Creative Bus Sales, Inc., of Chino, CA. The State’s contract covers requirements for the State of California as well as other participating agencies. Because of the estimated volume, the State is able to obtain more competitive pricing than agencies could obtain on an individual procurement basis. Based on the per-bus price of \$42,052.37, the contract amount shall not exceed \$210,261.85. This amount includes the 2.56 percent administrative fee charged by the State.

In accordance with the State’s contract, the vehicles are considered Caltrans Type IV vehicles and operate on unleaded fuel. The Type IV vehicle is specifically designed for light transit use.

The State’s contract includes the appropriate (FTA) required contract terms and conditions that allows for other agencies like the RTA to piggyback.

If approved by the Board, the new minivans can be delivered by August 2005.

Fiscal Impact:

Funding for this procurement in the amount of \$210,261.85 will be provided by FTA capital grant assistance (CA-90-Y272). This item was included in the Agency’s FY 2004 capital budget previously approved by the Board.

Committee Recommendation:

This item was presented at the Board Budget and Finance Committee meeting of May 12<sup>th</sup>. The Committee members unanimously approved recommending this item to the full Board of Directors for their consideration.

Recommendation:

Authorize staff to award a contract to Creative Bus Sales, Inc., for a quantity of five (5), Accessible Minivans in an amount that shall not exceed \$210,261.85.