

Business Item

Transportation Committee



Committee meeting date: January 12, 2026

For the Metropolitan Council: January 28, 2026

Business Item: 2026-14

Procurement of Nineteen Heavy Duty Gillig Buses for MTS, MVTA and Plymouth, Contract 25P341

District(s), member(s): All

Policy/legal reference: FM14-2 Expenditures for Procurement of Goods, Services, and Real Estate Policy; Minn. Statute § 471.345

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Division/department: Transportation / Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS)

Proposed action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 25P341 with Gillig, LLC to exercise purchase options utilizing the State of Washington's Master Contract #06719 for nineteen replacement heavy duty buses of various sizes in an amount not to exceed \$15,800,000.

Background

Procurement of nineteen replacement heavy duty buses will align with the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), contingent upon approval of business item 2026-1 JT. Purchase of these heavy duty buses will allow the operating agencies to continue to maintain a state of good repair for their respective fleets. These nineteen heavy duty buses will replace heavy duty buses that have already exceeded or that will exceed their useful life in 2026.

- (3) 30' Gillig buses for MVTA utilizing NTD Funding, Project #36358
- (6) 40' Gillig buses for Plymouth utilizing NTD Funding, Project #36357
- (10) 35' Gillig buses for MTS utilizing NTD Funding, Project #36354

The purchase of ten buses for MTS will support service expansions identified through the Network Now framework. The three buses for MVTA will support fixed route service, and the six buses for Plymouth will support fixed route and express services.

The State of Washington released RPF 06719 which is a multi-vendor cooperative agreement that is open to all transit agencies. The Council executed Joint Powers Cooperative Agreement #22I002 with the State of Washington Department of Enterprise Services to utilize Master Contract #06719.

Rationale

The execution of a goods contract exceeding \$2,000,000 requires Council approval.

Thrive lens analysis

On Feb. 12, 2025, the Council adopted Imagine 2050, which builds on policy direction in Thrive MSP 2040. Under the Thrive lens, this purchase supports safe and reliable transit infrastructure now and into the future for transit passengers throughout the region (sustainability) and enhances the quality of life in the region by reducing traffic congestion and improving air quality (livability).

Funding

These buses are in the Capital Improvement Plan and will use federal and local funds. Full funding is contingent upon Capital Amendment Business Item 2026-1 JT. Buses for MVTA and Plymouth are the last buses planned for purchase through the previous transit capital funding framework.

Small business inclusion

The Office of Equity and Equal Opportunity (OEEO) did not establish a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal for this procurement. Transit Vehicle Manufacturers are required to submit DBE program plans directly to the FTA. The FTA maintains a list of approved transit vehicle manufacturers and the Council may only purchase transit vehicles from manufacturers on that list.

