



(Board Copy)
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
**METRO ELECTRONIC ACTION
DOCUMENT**

IDENTIFICATION			
MEAD ID:	99111	ACTION:	Initiate & Award
AWARD VALUE:	(Not yet awarded)	CONTRACT: (Proposed)	
FUND SOURCES: (View)	System Access/Capacity Program	CONTRACTOR:	
LAST MODIFIED:	02/21/2006		

DESCRIPTION	
SUBJECT:	To request approval to initiate and award a competitive procurement for small buses.
PURPOSE:	To request Board approval to initiate and award a competitive procurement for the purchase of six small passenger buses and on-board equipment, spare parts, indirect costs, and project management for TAGS service in Springfield. The procurement will include an option for up to 30 additional buses.

ORIGINATION					
INITIATOR			DEPARTMENTAL APPROVAL		
JOHN REQUA on 11/10/2005			Approved by REQUA , JOHN 02/17/2006		
PHONE:	202-962-1319	OFFICE:	COOB	DEPT:	BUS

COORDINATION (ROUTING)		
OFFICE	NAME	ACTION/DATE
COOB (3211)	REQUA, JOHN	Approved 02/17/2006
BMNT (3231)	WALLACE, PHILLIP	Approved 02/17/2006
PRMT (7410)	JACKSON, LUCY	Approved w/ Comments 02/22/2006
COUN (1410)	O'KEEFFE, CAROL	Approved w/ Comments 02/27/2006
CFO1 (2110)	WOODRUFF, HARRY	Approved 02/23/2006
OPAS (3161)	HUGHES, JAMES	Approved 02/27/2006

FINAL APPROVALS	
OFFICE	NAME/ACTION
OPER_CMTE	Approved for OPAS by JAMES HUGHES on 02/27/2006
GM	Approved for GMGR by GMGR CEO on 03/07/2006
BOARD	BOARD WMATA (Not Yet Approved)



Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
**METRO ELECTRONIC ACTION
 DOCUMENT**

NARRATIVE

Transportation Association of Greater Springfield (TAGS) bus service was inaugurated in October 1999 to assist residents traveling around Springfield while the Springfield interchange construction affected local streets. Four nineteen-passenger buses were purchased from the Virginia state contract in 1999 to service TAGS. Originally the service carried passengers to both sides of I 95. In September 2004 route changes were made and TAGS buses now service areas further east, but do not cross I 95. In September 2005 TAGS incorporated the service provided by the shuttle bus between the Franconia Springfield Metrorail station and the auxiliary parking area at Springfield Mall. Therefore, to properly service the new route structure and provide one spare bus, a total of six buses are needed by WMATA.

The existing TAGS vehicles, which are not heavy duty transit buses, have provided service since 1999 and are reaching the end of their expected service life. Similar vehicles are available from the Virginia contract. However, this type of vehicle has not been sufficient for the rigors of the TAGS service and a more durable vehicle is being sought under a competitive procurement. Funding is available to replace the buses with a heavier duty, better equipped bus. The new buses will be painted in the traditional Metrobus color scheme, not the current green TAGS scheme.

There is considerable demand for this type of bus, therefore options for additional buses will be included with this procurement as a service to Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments jurisdictions, and other public transit agencies and government entities under inter-governmental contracting procedures. There is no cost to WMATA to include these options.

Alternatives

1. Discontinue TAGS service. This alternative is not recommended as TAGS provides service to 10,000 to 12,000 passengers a month and relieves traffic congestion in the Springfield area while the mixing bowl construction continues. Customers can use Metrorail or VRE to the Franconia Springfield station and TAGS to reach their final destination. Customers can also use TAGS for travel between businesses or between business and shopping in Springfield, leaving the car parked.

2. Continue TAGS service with the existing fleet. This is not recommended as the aging buses are experiencing an increasing breakdown rate and there are not enough of them to properly service the route. Grant funds for the bus replacement are available, and will be returned unused if not spent on TAGS.

Prior Approvals

The Budget Committee amended the Fiscal 2006 System Access/Capacity Program (SAP) on February 9, 2006 to add funding for the TAGS bus procurement.

Impact on Funding

System Access/Capacity Program (SAP) FY 2006

Fairfax County, TAGS Shuttle Buses

Budget: \$611,279

Prior Action: 0

This Action: \$611,279

Funds Remaining: 0

Affirmative Action Requirements

Pursuant to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Regulation 49 CFR Part 26, transit vehicle manufacturers must have a FTA approved DBE program as a condition to bid; therefore, individual WMATA DBE goals do not apply.

Recommendation

Board approval to initiate and award a competitive procurement for the purchase of six small passenger buses and on-board equipment, spare parts, indirect costs, and project management for TAGS service in Springfield. The procurement will include an option for up to 30 additional buses.