

SOUND TRANSIT

MOTION NO. M99-42

Option Purchase of Twenty-Nine, 60-Foot New Flyer Buses

BACKGROUND AND COMMENTS

Meeting:	Date:	Type of Action:	Staff Contact:	Phone:
Finance Committee	7/1/99	Recommend Board Approval	Veronica Parker, Program Manager, Regional Bus	206-398-5042
Board of Directors	7/8/99	Approval	Agnes Govern, Director, Regional Express	206-398-5037

ACTION:

Approval of Motion M99-42 will authorize staff to exercise the option on the contract with New Flyer of America (RTA/RE 77-98). This option is for the procurement of twenty-nine, 60-foot buses for ST Express services in an amount not to exceed \$16 million.

BACKGROUND:

Sound Move included funding for the implementation of ST Express routes. The 1999 SIP has programmed 193 buses to meet the ST Express service demands. In April 1998, the Board authorized Resolution R98-6, approving the New Flyer contract for up to 75 buses. The initial purchase was for 25 buses. These buses have been manufactured and delivered to King County Metro for inspection prior to being allocated to the transit agencies. Several of the buses are in revenue service on the Seattle Express.

Buses from the option order would be delivered in 2000 and 2004. The delivery schedule is in accordance with the increases in the ST Express vehicle requirements as the service ramps up. New Flyer has agreed to incorporate parcel racks and reading lamps into the specification on this order. Due to the timeframe to manufacture the initial 25 buses, New Flyer was not able to accommodate the change order request to have these amenities added.

RELEVANT BOARD POLICIES AND PREVIOUS ACTIONS TAKEN:

- ◆ *Sound Move*, the Ten-Year Regional Transit System Plan.
- ◆ Motion M98-3, approving bus procurement strategy (February 12, 1998).
- ◆ Resolution R98-16, authorizing execution of the New Flyer of America contract (April 9, 1998).
- ◆ Resolution R98-46, adopting the 1998 Service Implementation Plan (November 12, 1998).
- ◆ Resolution R98-49, approving 1999 Budget and Capital Plan (November 12, 1998).

KEY FEATURES:

- ◆ The approximate unit cost is \$435,000. This price also reflects an estimate for the inclusion of the parcel racks and reading lamps. Training, support manuals, spare parts, contingency, and taxes have also been incorporated into the not to exceed amount of \$16 million. Buses will be equipped with high-back cloth seats, air conditioning, bicycle racks, and wheel chair ramps in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- ◆ Additional amenities will be designed into the specifications to include parcel racks and reading lamps.
- ◆ New Flyer has informed Sound Transit of their willingness and capability to perform the proposed work in accordance with the terms of the option.

FUNDING:

The proposed 1999 Budget includes the purchase of the ST Express fleet required to run the routes detailed in the 1998 Service Implementation Plan. The 1999 Service Implementation Plan (scheduled for Board action on June 10, 1999) includes the exercise of the New Flyer option. See Attachment 1 for details.

The vehicle budget reflects an increase in vehicle requirements and the leasing of the Breda buses. A portion of the deficient is being absorbed by capacity in other areas of the Regional Bus capital budget. Overall, the capital budget is consistent with the *Sound Move* Appendix A budget.

ALTERNATIVES:

The Board could decide not to authorize this option purchase, resulting in an independent procurement for 29 articulated buses. The lead-time to complete this type of procurement process and manufacture the order may not meet the 2000-2001 service change.

CONSEQUENCES OF DELAY:

Given the current manufacturing climate, bus procurements have a lead-time of 18 to 24 months. Delay of exercising the option may jeopardize our ability to secure delivery dates that will meet the 2000-2001 service change.

LEGAL REVIEW:

The Legal Department has reviewed and approved the Background and Comments and the Motion.

SOUND TRANSIT

MOTION NO. M99-42

A motion of the Board of Directors of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority authorizing the Executive Director to exercise the option with New Flyer of America for the purchase of twenty-nine (29), 60-foot buses in an amount not to exceed \$16,000,000.

Background:

Sound Move included funding for the implementation of ST Express routes, and the 1999 budget assumed the acquisition of approximately 193 buses. The ST Express system is scheduled to begin operations in September 1999. In April 1998, the Board approved the purchase of twenty-five 60' New Flyer buses, with an option to purchase up to additional fifty buses. Production and delivery of the first order of twenty-five New Flyer buses is nearly completed. This motion authorizes the exercise of the option with New Flyer to procure additional twenty-nine 60' buses in an amount not to exceed \$16,000,000.

Motion:

It is hereby moved by the Board of Directors of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority authorizing the Executive Director to exercise the purchase option and execute a contract for twenty-nine 60' buses with New Flyer of America Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$16,000,000.

Approved by the Board of Directors of the Central Puget Sound Regional Authority at a regular meeting thereof on the 8th day of July, 1999.



Paul E. Miller
Board Chair

ATTEST:



Marcia Walker
Board Administrator