

AGENDA ITEM
Action Item 6 A

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 28, 2008
TO: El Dorado County Transit Authority
FROM: Mindy Jackson, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Commuter Bus Replacement Schedule

REQUESTED ACTION:
BY MOTION,

Direct staff to proceed with replacement diesel bus commuter bus acquisition under contract assignation by Request for Proposal prepared by Yolo County Transportation District.

BACKGROUND

The El Dorado County Transit Authority (El Dorado Transit) provides eleven (11) morning and twelve (12) afternoon commuter routes to the downtown Sacramento corridor. During 1988 the service was implemented with two (2) small surplus busses and currently provides an average of 704 daily trips.

Recent increases in ridership and the interest of potential riders have generated requests to expand service. The recently adopted Western El Dorado County 2008 Short Range Transit Plan, June 18, 2008 discusses the fiscal constraint on service expansion. With the increase in fuel costs and reduction in available operating revenue, any expansion of service is challenging.

The El Dorado Transit capital plan included in the SRTP projects the need to replace six (6) of the fourteen (14) 40' commuter buses in fiscal year 2008/2009; one (1) in 2009/10 and two (2) in 2010/11. During the last two (2) years, El Dorado Transit bundled several revenue sources to fund replacement of seven (7) commuter buses. The funding as noted in the adopted capital plan is approved as below:

Federal Transit Administration Section 5307	\$1,482,427.
Sacramento County STIP (exchanged for 5307)	\$ 365,000
State Transit Assistance Fund (STA)	\$ 47,917.
PTMISEA (Prop 1B)	<u>\$1,254,656.</u>
<i>Total Project/Revenue</i>	<i>\$3,150,000</i>

DISCUSSION

With the fiscal constraint of adding new routes, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) restriction on adding buses and the unavailability of the current commuter fleet bus-type, El Dorado Transit staff is recommending upgrading to a 57-seat 45' commuter coach from the current 40' 45-seat bus. Replacing 45-seat buses with 57-seat coaches will provide higher seating capacity and should save operating and capital expenses.

Viewing opportunity. A demonstration model of the bus that may be purchased will be parked at the El Dorado County library bus stop on Fair Lane on August 28, 2008 from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm. This demonstration bus is in-service rotating through all commuter routes from August 18 to September 12, 2008. Passenger comments are documented and considered during development of bus specifications.

El Dorado Transit has funding in-place to purchase seven (7) of the fourteen (14) 40' buses in the fleet. After taking delivery of the seven (7) replacement buses the commuter fleet will include seven (7) upgraded over-the-road coaches and seven (7) older 40' buses until replacement of full fleet is complete. The replacement schedule below incorporates replacement of entire commuter fleet including the option to replace the five (5) 35' buses currently providing service on the Iron Point Connector (IPC). The IPC route connects passengers to light rail in Folsom every two hours Monday through Friday 5:40 am to 5:40 pm.

El Dorado Transit proposes the following replacement schedule:

FY 09/10	FY 10/11	FY 11/12	FY 12/13	FY 13/14
7	3	4	5*	

* FY 12/13 would replace the Iron Point Connector 35' buses

El Dorado Transit is working with Yolo County Transportation District (YCTD) Placer County Transit, Yuba-Sutter Transit, and Roseville Transit on a joint procurement of 45' commuter buses. YCTD is currently preparing bus specifications with input from El Dorado Transit and the other operators for purchase assignments on a procurement contract. Federal regulations allow both a multi-year procurement, as well as assignment options to other transit operators. YCTD intends to assign procurement as per the named operators and include options for unspecified operators for a total of 125 buses over a 5-year period.

The replacement buses will be diesel powered with CARB certified engines and meet all federal and state regulations.

With board direction, the Executive Director will continue to work with YCTD and other operators to standardize the bus specifications and include all options necessary for the El Dorado Transit fleet with the above replacement schedule. The final purchase order will be presented for board approval on November 11, 2008.

Preliminary project schedule:

Publication of RFP	9/15/08
Contact Award by YCTD	10/13/08
Purchase Order to El Dorado Transit board	11/6/08
Delivery (Approximate)	9/15/09
<i>At least 240 days from receipt of order</i>	

FISCAL IMPACT

Approved revenue:

Federal Transit Administration Section 5307	\$1,482,427.
Sacramento County STIP (exchanged for 5307)	\$ 365,000
State Transit Assistance Fund (STA)	\$ 47,917.
PTMISEA (Prop 1B)	<u>\$1,254,656.</u>
<i>Total Project/Revenue</i>	<i>\$3,150,000</i>

Anticipated Fiscal Year 2009/10:

Federal Transit Administration Section 5307	\$ 550,000.
PTMISEA (Prop 1B)	<u>\$1,254,656.</u>
<i>Total Projected FY 09/10 Revenue</i>	<i>\$1,804,656</i>