


Agenda Item 2 A
Action Item

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 5, 2009

TO: El Dorado County Transit Authority

FROM: Mindy Jackson, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Western El Dorado County 2008 Short Range Transit Plan
Early Replacement of Four (4) Commuter Buses

REQUESTED ACTION:

BY MOTION, Adoption of Amendment #1 to Western El Dorado County 2008 Short Range Transit Plan

BACKGROUND

The Western El Dorado County 2008 Short Range Transit Plan (SRTP) was adopted by the El Dorado County Transit Authority (El Dorado Transit) and accepted by the El Dorado County Transportation Commission (EDCTC) on July 3, 2008. This is a planning document for fiscal years (FY) 2008/09 through 2012/13.

Fleet replacement is included as a Short Range Capital Plan within the SRTP. Projects utilizing Federal Transit Administration (FTA) section 5307 urban grant funds are required to be included in an adopted short range transit plan. El Dorado Transit will use funding from a combination of FTA; American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), Sacramento County STIP and local transportation funds to replace ten (10) of nineteen (19) commuter buses. The revised vehicle replacement plan includes early replacement of four (4) buses because of the availability of CARB certified engines and funding. Early replacement of vehicles using FTA funds requires a SRTP amendment.

The ten (10) diesel commuter fleet buses scheduled/proposed for replacement are listed in the following table.

El Dorado Transit No.	Year	Make/Model	Capacity	Replacement Year	Mileage
9503	1995	Bluebird	47	2005	422,585
9504	1995	Bluebird	47	2005	551,124
9505	1995	Bluebird	47	2005	431,234
9506	1995	Bluebird	47	2005	448,413
9507	1995	Bluebird	47	2005	463,112
9904	1999	Bluebird	47	2009	385,811

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El Dorado Transit No.	Year	Make/Model	Capacity	Replacement Year	Mileage
0101	2001	Thomasbuilt	47	2011	331,879
0102	2001	Thomasbuilt	47	2011	413,056
0204	2002	Thomasbuilt	47	2012	318,295
0606	2006	Bluebird	37	2016	92,421

DISCUSSION

El Dorado Transit uses the adopted SRTP as a guide to improve and enhance transit services. Early replacement of vehicles #0101; 0102; 0204 and 0606 is recommended due to the need to use grant funding in a timely manner and complications related to California Air Resources Board (CARB) engine regulations. The current contract for purchasing the commuter coaches is a five (5) year contract awarded by the Yolo County Transportation District. The contract includes language to meet CARB requirements and a price escalation clause for future engines. CARB has certified 2009 engines that must be ordered before the end of November. El Dorado Transit may lose grant funding if 2009 engines are not ordered because engine manufacturers have not built CARB certified 2010 engines. The 2010 engine price will not be determined until the equipment is CARB certified and in production.

El Dorado Transit is replacing 37 and 45- passenger seat buses with 57-seat buses therefore; providing additional cost-effective capacity without expanding routes.

The attached DRAFT Amendment #1 is presented for adoption. Approval will facilitate early replacement of four (4) buses to purchase CARB certified 2009 engines and the timely use of grant funds.

An amendment to the SRTP requires adoption by the El Dorado Transit board and approval by EDCTC. El Dorado Transit staff submitted a request to the EDCTC to consider SRTP Amendment #1 (copy of request attached).

Vehicle #0606 is not fully depreciated with a value of \$153,521.72. Several vehicles scheduled for replacement have value associated with aftermarket retrofits. Board approval is required to allow equipment offset/loss. The recommendation to approve equipment loss/offset of value will be included in future board action when specific vehicles are designated as surplus.

Five (5) initial replacement buses are scheduled for delivery the first week of November. A second purchase order for four (4) replacement buses is submitted for board approval in the November 5, 2009 agenda (item 1 B).

FISCAL IMPACT

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Capital Revenue

Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5307	
Grant # CA-90-Y471	\$ 365,000
Grant # CA-90-Y356	\$ 799,427
Grant # CA-90-Y537	\$ 320,000
Grant # CA-90-Y633	\$ 425,000
California State Prop 1B Bond (aka PTIMSEA)	\$1,957,829*
American Recovery and Reinvestment Account (ARRA)	\$ 519,000
Sacramento County State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)	\$ 363,000
State Transit Assistance (STA)	\$ 440,744

Expenses

Ten (10) 57-seat buses @ \$519,000	\$5,190,000
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* These funds are held in an interest bearing account by El Dorado Transit. Interest revenue will be used on this purchase reducing the local match.

Western El Dorado County 2008 Short-Range Transit Plan

Amendment #1
(Page 202)

CAPITAL PLAN

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Fleet Replacement and Expansion

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Based upon current mileage and condition, as well as current utilization rates for existing services, the following vehicles will warrant replacement over the five-year planning period:

- **37 or 45-passenger buses** (base cost of \$500,000 per unit) – 6 in FY 2008/09, ~~4~~ in FY 2009/10, ~~and 2 in 2010/11~~
- **22-passenger buses** (base cost of \$102,000 per unit) – 7 in FY 2008/09, and 2 in FY 2010/11
- **4-passenger minivans** (base cost of \$47,000 per unit) – 4 in FY 2008/09, 1 in FY 2010/11, 1 in 2011/12 and 1 in FY 2012/13
- **Staff car** (base cost of \$25,000 per unit) – 1 in FY 2010/11

Of the 26 total revenue vehicles to be purchased under this plan, 23 are required for replacement and 3 are required for service expansion.

The replacement 57-passenger buses (for commuter service) are intended to replace the existing 37 or 45-passenger Bluebird buses currently in the EDCTA fleet. The specific vehicle type in need of replacement is no longer being manufactured, and similar vehicles currently on the market do not have the specifications needed for commuter service. It is important for the long commute trip that the buses be equipped with all forward facing seats (as opposed to the typical urban transit bus, with partial side facing seats), as well as amenities such as individual reading lights and high-back seats. For these reasons, it will be necessary to purchase slightly larger “over the road” coaches. While the per-unit cost is roughly \$100,000 greater than the old model, they have a useful life of 20 years rather than 12 years.



EL DORADO TRANSIT

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October 20, 2009

Ms. Kathryn Mathews, AICP
Executive Director
El Dorado County Transportation Commission
2828 Easy Street, Suite 100
Placerville, CA 95667

Re: Amendment Request
Short Range Transit Plan

Dear Ms. Mathews:

The El Dorado County Transit Authority (El Dorado Transit) is requesting that the El Dorado County Transportation Commission (EDCTC) consider adopting an amendment to the Western El Dorado County 2008 Short Range Transit Plan (SRTP) to facilitate early replacement of commuter buses.

El Dorado Transit was awarded grant funding to acquire the nine (9) replacement commuter buses referenced in the current SRTP and Sacramento County STIP funding for a tenth bus. The current contract for purchase includes vehicles powered with 2009 California Air Resources Board (CARB) approved engines. Currently, 2010 engines that meet CARB requirements are not approved for manufacturing therefore; El Dorado Transit plans to purchase a total of ten (10) replacement commuter buses with the existing 2009 engine. **Early replacement will ensure timely use of funds and cost-effective pricing.** The awarded contract is a multiple year contract with a price escalator however; the price of the 2010 engine is unknown at this time.

Commuter bus replacement is being accomplished with a combination of federal, state and local funding. Eligible Federal Transit Administration (FTA) 5307 projects are required to be included in the appropriate jurisdictional SRTP therefore; we are requesting an amendment to the SRTP to include ten (10) replacement commuter buses.

Current SRTP language:

Based upon current mileage and condition, as well as current utilization rates for existing services, the following vehicles will warrant replacement over the five-year planning period:

- 45-passenger buses (base cost \$500,000 per unit) - 6 in FY 2008/09; 1-in FY 2009/10 and 2 in FY 2010/11

Proposed SRTP language:

- *37- or 45-passenger buses (base cost \$500,000 per unit) - 6 in FY 2008/09 and 4 in FY 2009/10*

The current commuter fleet includes fourteen (14) 45-passenger buses and five (5) 37-passenger buses. The 57-seat replacement buses provide additional capacity without expanding routes. The ten (10) replacement vehicles will be placed in active commuter service and the agency will surplus and remove three (3) commuter buses from the fleet.

We respectfully request that the El Dorado County Transportation Commission approve or adopt the proposed amendment to the SRTP.

Feel free to contact me with any comments, concerns or questions at (530) 642-5383 ext. 210 or mjackson@eldoradotransit.com.

Regards,



Mindy Jackson
Executive Director