

City Council – Action Request Form

Date: March 14, 2023

To: Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore, and Members of the City Council

From: Aaron King, Assistant City Manager
Toneq' McCullough, Director of Transportation

Council Action Requested:
Resolution Authorizing an Application with the Federal Transit Administration for Funding Through a Competitive Grant for Bus Purchases for the WSTA Transit Services

Strategic Focus Area: Quality Transportation
Strategic Objective: Enhance Multimodal Transportation options and Regional Connectivity
Strategic Plan Action Item: Yes
Key Work Item: No



Summary of Information:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has announced funding opportunities for a grant which the Department of Transportation (DOT) and Winston-Salem Transit Authority (WSTA) are requesting authorization to pursue.

This application is for the competitive Bus and Bus Facilities grant, funded in conjunction with the Low-No Emissions grant. The FTA has made funding available in the amount of \$1.7 billion to support state and local efforts to buy or modernize buses, improve bus facilities, and support workforce development. The Bus and Bus Facilities Grant has a total funding amount of \$469 million. The DOT and WSTA intend to pursue the Bus and Bus Facilities Grant to fund diesel-electric hybrid fixed-route buses. The application will address FTA’s program priorities which include renewing transit systems, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, advancing racial equity, maintaining and creating good-paying jobs, and connecting communities.

Committee Action:

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|------------------|---------------|----------------|----------|
| Committee | PW & FIN 3/14 | Action | Approval |
| For | Unanimous | Against | |
| Remarks: | | | |

Federal awards are expected to have a ceiling of \$46.9 million per project, but organizations will likely apply in the amount of \$1-5 million for buses and up to \$10 million for bus facilities. All awards require a 20% local match. DOT and WSTA will apply for a total grant amount not to exceed \$5,000,000 with a local match not to exceed \$1,000,000 which will come from WSTA capital funds already budgeted. The funds will be used to fund Heavy Duty Low-Floor Hybrid Diesel Electric Transit Buses for the Fixed Route service. The cost of the last purchase in 2020 was about \$800,000 per bus. WSTA estimates the cost to increase to about \$900,000 per bus for current and future purchases.