

CITY OF SANTA ROSA  
CITY COUNCIL

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
FROM: PAM LORENCE, RESEARCH AND PROGRAM COORDINATOR  
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS  
  
SUBJECT: RESOLUTION OF LOCAL SUPPORT FOR THE FEDERAL  
TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION LOW OR NO EMISSION BUS  
DISCRETIONARY GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION

AGENDA ACTION: RESOLUTION

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RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the Transportation and Public Works Department that the Council, by resolution, support and authorize the City Manager or designee to execute and submit a joint City of Santa Rosa/Sonoma County Transit grant application with the Federal Transit Administration under the Federal Transit Administration Low or No Emission Bus Discretionary Grant Program for the purchase of electric buses, charging equipment and required infrastructure upgrades.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) requires a resolution adopted by the governing board to be included in the grant application for the FTA Low or No Emission Bus Discretionary Program (Low-No Program).

The Transportation and Public Works Department is preparing the application in partnership with Sonoma County Transit for a grant to purchase four to six electric buses, charging stations, and the necessary station upgrades from manufacturer Build Your Dreams (BYD) Company Limited.

BACKGROUND

1. Section 5339 (c) of Title 49, United States Code, as amended under the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act of 2015 authorizes the FTA to award grants for low or no emission buses through a competitive process.

2. The Low-No Program provides funding for the purchase or lease of zero-emission and low-emission transit buses; including acquisition, construction, and leasing of required supporting facilities such as recharging stations.
3. Federal transit law authorized \$55 million in Fiscal Year 2017 for grants under the Low-No Program.
4. Sonoma County Transit previously purchased two electric buses from BYD.

#### PRIOR CITY COUNCIL REVIEW

None

#### ANALYSIS

1. Transportation and Public Works wishes to submit a joint application for the acquisition of four to six all electric buses, approximately three purchased by CityBus and two purchased by Sonoma County Transit. The grant request will also include the cost of improving the infrastructure at both corporation yards to accommodate the new charging stations.
2. The Lo-No Program grant will cover 85% of the costs to purchase the electric buses and required charging equipment. The City will be required to provide the remaining 15% in matching funds.
3. If the grant is awarded to the City, the required match is anticipated to come from the competitive Transportation Fund for Clean Air grant program or from the formula funding from the Transportation Development Act.
4. This funding will allow the Transportation and Public Works Department to begin to test the electric buses as a small part of the entire fixed-route fleet to determine if this is the best zero-emission option for the future.
5. If the grant is approved, the City will purchase the buses and equipment from BYD.
6. This project meets the goals of the City to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide more reliable transit service to the community.
7. The FTA requires a resolution of the City Council authorizing the submittal of the grant application and committing the matching funds for the grant.

#### FISCAL IMPACT

There will be no financial impact to the General Fund.

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

This action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under the CEQA Guidelines Section 15303, which addresses the construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures.

## BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Not applicable

## NOTIFICATION

Not applicable

## ATTACHMENTS

Resolution

## CONTACT

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