


Item No. 11.1.3
Halifax Regional Council
October 25, 2011

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: Original Signed by 
Mike Labrecque, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: October 6, 2011

SUBJECT: Request for Proposals No. 11-122 Supply of up to 15 Forty-Foot Transit Buses

ORIGIN

2011/2012 Capital Budget.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Halifax Regional Council:

1. Award RFP No. 11-122, to the highest scoring proponent, Nova Bus for nine (9) forty foot Model LFS buses at a total cost of \$3,697,324.56 (net HST included) with funding from Project Account CMX01104 – Rural Community Transit as outlined in the Budget Implications section of this report
2. Authorize staff to purchase an additional six (6) forty foot buses in year two of the agreement at a cost of \$2,494,541.98 (net HST included) with funding from Project Account CMX01104 - Rural Community Transit. This purchase will be pending approval of the Capital Budget by Regional Council and the need, if required, to expand the MetroX Service.
3. Approve a \$50,000 budget increase to Project Account CMX01104 - Rural Community Transit as a result of additional HIAA grant funding.

BACKGROUND

The Approved 2011/12 Project Budget includes funds for expansion of the MetroX rural express service including the purchase of nine forty foot transit buses to provide service to the Halifax Stanfield International Airport (HSIA) and Fall River. This service will operate seven days per week, providing a full service day from approximately 6:00 a.m. to midnight. The level of service will be every 30 minutes during peak hours and every 60 minutes at all other times.

The need was identified in the HRM Regional Transit Plan - Park and Ride, Express and Rural Transportation Services study.

The requirement for nine (9) buses is based on the high number of kilometres they will be required to run in order to provide a full day of service to HSIA. As these buses will run more kilometres on average than the regular Metro Transit fleet, a higher spare ratio is required to spread the kilometres across the buses and maintain fleet reliability and longevity. The contract allows for up to six additional buses to be purchased. These additional buses provide the flexibility for future expansion of the Airport/Fall River MetroX service if desired and also provides an option to purchase buses for new Community Transit routes in the future.

These buses will feature MetroX branding and will include overhead baggage racks and front-mounted bicycle racks.

DISCUSSION

RFP No. 11-122 for up to fifteen (15) Forty-foot Transit Buses was issued on June 16th, 2011 and closed on August 11th, 2011. Submissions were received from the following proponents:

Proponent	Score (Max 100)
Nova Bus	94.0*
New Flyer	91.1
Orion	87.0

*recommended proponent

Each proposal submission was evaluated in the following areas:

1. Technical: Compliance with Performance Evaluation
2. Miscellaneous: Durability, Delivery and Training
3. Financial: Price per Bus
4. Warranty: Length and Scope
5. Operating: Fuel Economy
6. Bus Operations: Workstation Ergonomics, Ease of Operation, Driveability and Vehicle Controls

A team consisting of staff from Corporate Fleet and Equipment, Metro Transit and facilitated by Procurement reviewed and evaluated the proposal on the criteria detailed in Appendix "A". To complete the evaluation Fleet and Transit staff road tested a "representative" bus of each proponent for ergonomics, ease of operation, vehicle controls and highway driveability.

Upon completion of the evaluation, staff are recommending the bus being offered by Nova Bus as it provides overall best value in terms of technical compliance, cost, fuel economy, bus operation and can meet our delivery requirement for the service implementation target of May, 2012.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Based on the RFP submission price of \$3,545,370.00 plus net HST of \$151,954.56, for a total net cost of \$3,697,324.56 (net HST included) from Project No. CMX01104 – Rural Community Transit. The Halifax International Airport Authority (HIAA) has committed \$500,000 toward the purchase of these buses. This is an increase of \$50,000 from the original grant included in the 2011/12 budget. As such the gross budget for this account must be increased. The net effect of this adjustment is zero. The budget availability has been confirmed by Financial Services.

Budget Summary: Project Account # CMX01104 - Rural Community Transit

Cumulative Unspent Budget	\$5,715,573.83
Plus: Cost Sharing (HIAA)	\$ 50,000.00
Less: RFP # 11-122*	<u>\$3,697,324.56</u>
Unspent Budget	\$2,068,249.27

*This project was estimated in the Approved 2010/11 Project Budget at approximately \$4,692,870.

The balance of funds will be used for fit-up of the new MetroX buses and to implement Park and Ride Lots in Porters Lake, Fall River and Hubley/Sheldrake Lake in support of future MetroX services in those communities.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES/BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipality’s Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating Project and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Project and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The need for the above outlined service was identified in the HRM Regional Transit Plan - Park and Ride, Express and Rural Transportation Services study. As part of the scope of this study, several Public Open Houses and stakeholder engagement sessions have been held to help shape the future of Public Transit in Halifax Regional Municipality.

ALTERNATIVES

Do not purchase the vehicles identified in this report and forgo expanding transit service to the areas identified in this report.

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix "A" - Evaluation Matrix.

A copy of this report and information on its status can be obtained by contacting the Procurement Office at 490-4170, or Fax 490-6425.

Report Prepared by: W.L. (Larry) Hilton, Coordinator Tech. & Admin. Services - Corporate Fleet & Equipment

Corporate Fleet Review: _____
Paul Beauchamp, Manager - Corporate Fleet & Equipment (490-6604)

Metro Transit Review: _____
Eddie Robar, Director – Metro Transit (490-6720)

Procurement Review: _____
Anne Feist, Manager, Procurement (490-4200)

Report Approved by: _____
Ken Reashor, P.Eng. Director - Transportation and Public Works (490-4855)

Original Signed

Appendix "A"
HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
Request for Proposals # 11-122
Supply of Nine (9) with Option for up to Six (6) Additional Forty-Foot Transit Buses

CRITERIA		MAX SCORE	SUBMISSION		
			Nova Bus	New Flyer	Orion
1.	Technical: <i>Compliance with performance evaluation, body/structure/interior/doors, power train, suspension, steering, communication information system, electrical, HVAC, etc.</i>	30	30	30	30
2.	Miscellaneous: <i>Durability (Altoona and other product testing information), delivery, training.</i>	15	15	15	10
3a.	Financial: <i>Year 1 total for 9 Buses = \$3,697,324.56 Year 2 total for 6 Buses = \$2,494,541.98 Price for Fifteen(15) Buses</i>	25	24 \$6,191,866.54 (net HST inc. for 15 buses)	22.7 \$6,550,902.38 (net HST inc. for 15 buses)	25 \$5,944,145.57 (net HST inc. for 15 buses)
3b.	Warranty: <i>Length and scope</i>	5	4	5	4
4.	Operating: <i>Fuel economy</i>	10	10	6.2	8.2
5.	Bus Operation: <i>Workstation ergonomics, ease of operation, driveability and vehicle controls</i>	15	11	12.2	9.8
TOTAL		100	94*	91.1	87

* recommended proponent