

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE: November 13, 2019

TO: Supervisor Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., Chair, County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Donna Brown-Martin, Director, Department of Transportation

SUBJECT: Authorization to Execute a Federal Section 5339(c) Low or No Emissions Grant Program Contract

POLICY

Per Wisconsin Statute 59.52(31) approval of the County Board is required to enter into a contract that exceeds \$300,000.

BACKGROUND

In March 2019, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced the opportunity to apply for \$85 million in competitive grants under the FY 2019 Section 5339(c) Low or No Emissions Grant Program. As required by federal public transportation law, funds were to be awarded competitively for the purchase or lease of low or no emission vehicles that use advanced technologies for transit operations, including related equipment or facilities. Projects could include costs incidental to the acquisition of buses or the construction of necessary facilities. Applications were due May 14, 2019.

As authorized by County Board Resolution File No. 19-439, the Department of Transportation (DOT) applied for \$1.7 million in Low-No grant funds, leveraging local funds previously appropriated in Capital Project WT124 – Battery-Electric Bus Acquisitions. Project WT124 initiates the transition of Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS) buses to battery-electric buses (BEBs) and away from fossil fuels. The \$1.7 million Low-No application submitted by the department proposed to purchase four BEBs at an estimated cost of \$850,000 per bus, while providing a 50 percent local matching share currently available in Capital Project WT124.

The FTA received 155 eligible proposals requesting nearly \$500 million in Low-No grant funding. Project proposals were evaluated based on each applicant's responsiveness to the program evaluation criteria. In July 2019, DOT was notified that it would receive the full \$1.7 million requested in the county's application. As described in the FTA's Low-No contract, the \$1.7 million grant can only be used for the purchase of BEBs.

FISCAL NOTE

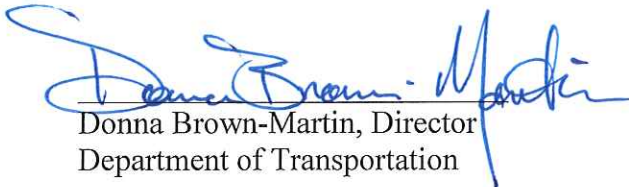
There is no budgetary impact as the local matching share required to accept this grant is currently available in Capital Project WT124 – Battery-Electric Bus Acquisitions. The department will prepare and submit an appropriation transfer request that increases both expenditure authority and federal revenue by \$1.7 million in Capital Project WT124, thereby resulting in no net change in the county's financial commitment.

RECOMMENDATION

The Director of the Milwaukee County Department of Transportation requests authorization to enter into a contract with the Federal Transit Administration for FY 2019 Section 5339(c) Low-No Emissions Grant funds and to accept \$1,700,000 in federal grant revenue for Capital Project WT124.

Prepared by: Steve Nigh, Sr. Mgr. Grants Development, MCDOT

Approved by:



Donna Brown-Martin, Director
Department of Transportation

cc: Chris Abele, Milwaukee County Executive
Raisa Koltun, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Executive
Chris Abele
Joseph Lamers, Director, DAS-PSB
Steve Cady, Research Director, Office of the Comptroller