

SOUND TRANSIT

MOTION NO. M98-57

**Compressed Natural Gas Bus Procurement
BACKGROUND AND COMMENTS**

Meeting:	Date:	Type of Action:	Staff Contact:	Phone:
Executive Committee	9/4/98	Discussion/Possible Action	Veronica Parker, Program Manager, Regional Bus Agnes Govern, Director, Regional Express	206-689-3533 206-684-1673

ACTION:

Pursuant to Motion 98-3 directing staff to conduct an independent procurement process for CNG buses that will operate Pierce County service, staff is asking the Board for authority to work with Pierce Transit on the procurement of CNG buses needed to operate Regional Express services in the Pierce County subarea. Sound Transit has the opportunity to be included in Pierce Transit's upcoming CNG bus procurement.

BACKGROUND:

Pierce Transit is planning to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) in September 1998 for a five-year contract to purchase compressed natural gas buses for the expansion and replacement of the Pierce Transit fleet. The five-year contract calls for the minimum purchase of 135 and the maximum of 300 buses. The Pierce Transit buses are expected to cost approximately \$300,000 each. To make the buses consistent with the rest of Sound Transit's fleet, the following amenities will be additional:

Bike Racks	
High Back Seats	
Air Conditioning	
Reading Lamps	
Parcel Racks	
Approximate cost per bus	\$355,000

The current assumption is that Sound Transit would purchase up to 20 CNG buses. The actual quantity of buses will be determined in the Service Implementation Plan.

RELEVANT BOARD POLICIES AND PREVIOUS ACTIONS TAKEN:

- ◆ Adoption of *Sound Move*, The Ten-Year Regional Transit System Plan (May 31, 1996).
- ◆ Motion 98-3 approving bus procurement strategy and directing staff to work with Pierce Transit to determine the appropriate diesel/CNG fleet mix in preparation for a Sound Transit procurement of CNG vehicles for Pierce Transit (February 12, 1998).

KEY FEATURES:

- ◆ This purchase would be consistent with Pierce Transit's vehicle acquisition strategy and alternative fuel initiative.
- ◆ Seating capacity is approximately 39 passengers.
- ◆ Pierce Transit will manage the procurement process.
- ◆ This procurement is for low-floor buses.
- ◆ Pierce Transit expects the bus contract to be awarded fourth quarter 1999. Staff will return to the Board for approval for the Sound Transit quantity within the contract.
- ◆ Tentative delivery schedule is estimated for second quarter 2000.
- ◆ Amenities will be added for consistency with the Sound Transit fleet.

FUNDING:

The 1998 budget includes \$72 million for bus acquisition. The initial cost of this contract is estimated to be approximately \$8 million (including taxes and spare units).

ALTERNATIVES:

The Board could decide to initiate a separate CNG bus procurement process. The lead-time to complete this type of procurement process and manufacture the CNG buses is currently 24 – 36 months.

CONSEQUENCES OF DELAY:

Sound Transit may lose the opportunity to work with Pierce Transit on a joint CNG bus procurement. This would result in the late deployment of compressed natural gas buses in Pierce County and a shortage of vehicles for the Pierce County subarea.

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A motion of the Executive Committee of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority for authority to work with Pierce Transit on the procurement of compressed natural gas (CNG) buses needed to operate Regional Express services in the Pierce Transit subarea. Sound Transit has the opportunity to be included in Pierce Transit's upcoming CNG bus procurement.

Background:

Pierce Transit is planning to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) in September 1998 for a five-year contract to purchase compressed natural gas buses for the expansion and replacement of the Pierce Transit fleet. The five-year contract calls for the minimum purchase of 135 and the maximum of 300 buses. The Pierce Transit buses are expected to cost approximately \$300,000 each. To make the buses consistent with the rest of Sound Transit's fleet, the following amenities will be additional:

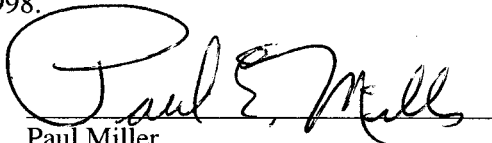
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Approximate cost per bus	\$355,000

The current assumption is that Sound Transit would purchase up to 20 CNG buses. The actual quantity of buses will be determined in the Service Implementation Plan.


Motion:

It is hereby moved by the Executive Committee of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority that staff is authorized to work with Pierce Transit on the procurement of compressed natural gas (CNG) buses needed to operate Regional Express services in the Pierce Transit subarea. Sound Transit has the opportunity to be included in Pierce Transit's upcoming CNG bus procurement.

Approved by the Executive Committee of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority at a regular meeting thereof on the 4th day of September, 1998.


Paul Miller
Executive Committee Chair

ATTEST:


Marcia Walker
Board Administrator