

Committee Report

Transportation Committee



Committee meeting date: February 23, 2026

For the Metropolitan Council: March 11, 2026

Business Item: 2026-47

Procurement of 109 Electric Hybrid Forty-Foot Transit Buses, Contract 26P058

Proposed action

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 26P058 with Gillig LLC utilizing the State of Washington's Master Contract 06719-01 to purchase (109) 40-foot electric-hybrid buses for the Council's regular route services in an amount not to exceed \$ 133,602,701.71

Summary of Transportation Committee discussion/questions

Metro Transit Bus Maintenance Technical Support Assistant Director Jereimah Riter presented this item. CM Obisakin asked about fire safety.

Motion by Johnson, seconded by Obisakin. Motion carried.

Note: The item was referred to as "Metro Transit Hybrid Bus Procurement" on the February 23, 2026 Transportation Committee agenda.



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District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	FM14-2 - Expenditures for the Procurement of Goods, Services, and Real Estate Policy
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Lesley Kandaras, General Manager, 612-349-7513 Brian Funk, Deputy GM/Chief Operating Officer, 612-349-7514 Bruce Cardon Deputy Chief Operations Officer Maintenance, 612-349-7516 Abel Mumbi, Bus Maintenance Director, 612-349-5006 Jeremiah Riter, Bus Maintenance Assistant Director, 612-349-5005
Division/Department:	Metro Transit/Bus Maintenance

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Background

Metro Transit was awarded a \$35,033,000 Low-No grant to replace aging diesel buses with new electric-hybrid buses. This funding will support fleet modernization efforts, reduce emissions, and improve overall efficiency and reliability of the fleet. Also, procurement of 109 electric-hybrid buses aligns with the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

The Council executed Joint Powers Cooperative Agreement #22I002 with the State of Washington Department of Enterprise Services allowing the Council to purchase rolling stock from their master contracts.

The State of Washington released RFP 06719 which is a multi-vendor cooperative agreement that is open to all transit agencies. Council staff have verified that the Washington agreement is fully compliant with all FTA standards

Rationale

The execution of a goods contract exceeding \$2,000,000 requires Council approval.

Thrive Lens Analysis

On Feb. 12, 2025, the Council adopted Imagine 2050, which builds on policy direction in Thrive MSP 2040. Investment in high-quality transportation options, like these buses, will advance the Thrive outcome of Prosperity by making the region more economically competitive through increased workers' access to employment, and supports employers by increasing available workforce with affordable, convenient transportation.

This purchase also advances the Equity outcome by distributing transit resources throughout the region and improving access to jobs, educational opportunities, and health services to diverse communities.

Funding

These buses are in the Capital Improvement Plan and will use federal and local funds. This purchase includes \$35,033,000 from the awarded FY25 Bus and Low- and No-Emission Grant.

Full funding is contingent upon Capital Amendment Business Item BIXXXXX JT.

Small Business Inclusion

The Office of Equity and Equal Opportunity (OEEO) does not review procurements of transit vehicles for the purpose of establishing a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal. Transit Vehicle Manufacturers are required to submit a DBE goal methodology directly to FTA. Only those transit vehicle manufacturers listed on FTA's certified list of Transit Vehicle Manufacturers, which includes Gillig, are eligible.