



Date: October 14, 2021
Current Meeting: October 21, 2021
Board Meeting: October 28, 2021

BOARD MEMORANDUM

TO: Indianapolis Public Transportation Corporation (IPTC) Board of Directors
THROUGH: President/CEO Inez P. Evans
FROM: Vice President of Operations/COO Aaron Vogel
SUBJECT: Consideration and approval of procurement of 28 60-foot Battery Electric Buses for Purple Line BRT

ACTION ITEM A – 7

RECOMMENDATION:

In a manner consistent with IPTC contract award standards, we request the Board authorize the President/CEO to place a new bus order under the contract option with BYD Corporation for 28 new 60-foot battery electric articulated buses to accommodate the needs of the IPTC BRT Purple Line for an amount not to exceed \$36,315,000 contingent on Buy America certification and a Letter of No Prejudice issued by the FTA.

BACKGROUND:

The purchase of these 28 BYD 60-foot electric buses is a part of the IPTC Board-approved award of a contract for BRT vehicles to BYD in April 2017. In negotiating the contract, IPTC staff was able to secure 31 BYD 60-foot buses with options to purchase up to 75 vehicles total, over the five-year contract. The BYD solution has been modified to provide all the performance characteristics that IPTC was seeking, including the installation of inductive charging stations to boost its fleet’s range.

The buses from this procurement are intended for use on the Purple Line BRT. The Purple Line is one component of the larger Marion County Transit Plan (MCTP) that will increase IPTC service and reliability. The 15.2-mile Purple Line will improve the connectivity between the City of Indianapolis and the City of Lawrence. For much of the corridor, the Purple Line will replace and improve our existing Route 39 local service, one of the highest ridership and most productive routes in the IPTC system. Approximately 90% of the Purple Line operates in dedicated, center-running lanes, which necessitates buses with left-side doors. A portion of the Purple Line shares its alignment and stations with the Red Line, which requires that buses be compatible with their 15-inch high platforms requiring the same bus design as the Red Line buses.

DISCUSSION:

It is IPTC’s intent to procure the 28 60-foot electric buses via the previously approved contract with BYD Corporation. BYD was determined to have the lowest cost proposal with the pricing found to be fair and reasonable. The base bus purchase from BYD was \$1,296,948 per vehicle in 2017, including all necessary add-on technology and components like bike racks, the AVAIL CAD/AVL system, radio system, and a video surveillance system. This purchase price remains in effect until the end of 2021.

ALTERNATIVES:

The Board could choose to not approve procurement of the BYD 60-foot Electric buses; however, it would greatly impact and or delay the service of the Purple Line BRT and change pricing.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The funding source for this procurement will come from proceeds of the 2021 approved bond issue. The buses will be delivered in 2022-23.

DBE/XBE DECLARATION:

N/A

STANDING COMMITTEE DISCUSSION/RECOMMENDATION:

This action will be reviewed by the Finance Committee on October 21, 2021.