



November 27, 2023

To: Members of the Board of Directors

From: Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer 

Subject: Approval to Release Invitation for Bids for Driver Protection System

Overview

The Orange County Transportation Authority has developed an invitation for bids to initiate a competitive procurement process to purchase driver protection systems for use in the OC Bus fixed-route service. Board of Directors' approval to release an invitation for bids for the procurement of up to 204 driver protection systems to be installed as a retrofit in the fixed-route operated buses is requested.

Recommendation

Approve the release of Invitation for Bids 3-2843 to procure driver protection systems to be installed as a retrofit in up to 204, 40-foot and 60-foot OC Bus fixed-route buses.

Discussion

On June 12, 2023, the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) Board of Directors (Board) approved funding to purchase up to 204 driver protection systems, also referred to as driver barriers to retrofit 40-foot and 60-foot fixed-route buses. OCTA's specifications for new bus purchases include driver barriers, which will now be considered standard equipment on the OCTA fixed-route bus fleet. The most recent procurement for 165 buses included driver barriers and the 36 additional option buses will also be equipped with driver barriers. The remaining 40-foot and 60-foot buses in the OC Bus fleet are not equipped with driver barriers and require retrofitting.

On October 29, 2019, OCTA's Change Control Committee approved the configuration change to equip the OC Bus fixed-route fleet with driver barriers. Prior to the configuration change, a pilot demonstration of the driver barriers was initiated to allow coach operators to test and provide feedback. As a result of the

pilot, the coach operators overwhelmingly stated they felt more safe and secure with these barriers. Fixed-route buses that were procured prior to 2019 are not equipped with driver barriers and will require the purchase and installation of equipment. Installation and equipment training of the driver barriers is included in the solicitation to allow them to be installed by OCTA maintenance personnel.

Procurement Approach

OCTA's procurement policies and procedures require the Board approve all invitations for bids (IFB) over \$1,000,000. Staff is requesting approval from the Board to release IFB 3-2843 for the purchase of up to 204 driver protection systems intended to be used for 40-foot and 60-foot buses (Attachment A).

The IFB will be released upon Board approval. The budget for this effort is \$2,090,000 for a one-year term. The award will be made to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder in accordance with state law.

Fiscal Impact

Funding is included in OCTA's approved Fiscal Year 2023-24 Budget, Operations Division, Account No. 2114-9026-D2108-N9U, and is locally funded.

Summary

Board of Directors' approval is requested to release Invitation for Bids 3-2843 for the purchase of up to 204, driver protection systems to be used for 40-foot and 60-foot buses.

Attachment

- A. Draft Invitation for Bids (IFB) 3-2843, Driver Protection System for 40-foot and 60-foot Buses

Prepared by:



Bill Habibe
Sr. Section Manger, Maintenance
Transit Technical Services
714-668-4574

Approved by:



Dayle Withers
Acting Director, Maintenance
714-560-5538



Pia Veasapen
Director, Contracts Administration and
Materials Management
714-560-5619



Johnny Dunning, Jr.
Chief Operating Officer, Operations
714-560-5710